Surfside Beach Town Council Meeting Minutes
Executive Session on January 24, 2017 • 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting January 24, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.
Town Council Chambers

Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements for the proposed sale or purchase of real property, and to consider legal advice from the town attorney. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Administrator Fellner and Town Clerk Herrmann. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. Motion Carried. Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:27 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. Motion Carried. Mayor Childs said for the record that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions and/or directions to the town administrator will be made during the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. as noted on the agenda under Business Item 7.C. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:27 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 Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Keziah; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Reverend Kirk Lawton, Ocean Lakes Campground Ministries, gave the invocation.

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

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to allow the presentation of Proclamation #17-112 to Honor Hunter Renfrow before Communication Item 6A. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Executive Session and Regular Meeting January 10, 2017. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the January 10, 2017 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker)

Mr. Allen Waller, 9th Avenue South: I’m here to support the youth baseball program. My family has been involved with it for many years. I’m hopeful that the younger ones will also involve themselves
in it. My grandson participated in the Dixie World Series. His claim to fame is that he got to strike out Hunter Renfrow. (Laughter) Thank you, and I certainly do appreciate your dedicated service to our town. I wish I could help you more, but I’m the president of a corporation, so I don’t have a whole lot of time myself. Thank you.

Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: I want to talk about the resolution that’s on the agenda from the stormwater fee that’s going to be added to our water bill. I wanted to kind of ask a question.

We have $8.8 million on hand right now according to the financial statements that I reviewed this evening as of December 31st. On top of that our $1.4 million in property taxes is not in yet. The $487,000 for franchise fees is not in yet, and the CTC reimbursement for $400,000 plus is not in yet. So, I would suggest to you that instead of having a tax increase on our water bill that we try to get a bond at cheap money. But, also, I don’t understand a tax increase with this much money in the bank. We’re under bud [sic]; you know, the budget is not going to eat that up. So, I don’t understand it. I would like for you to look for alternative measures. Thank you.

Mr. John Bacot, Cedar Drive North: I wore this shirt tonight. It’s been hanging in my closet there from one of the years we won the State Championship. I coached over at Martin Field starting in ’79, and coached on and off over at Huckabee. Martin Field was insufficient to support the program and Mayor Blue Huckabee got the effort underway and the town built that field out there, which was way out of town at the time. I feel like it would be incumbent upon the town to make all efforts to keep the activity whether we can combine with the county; whatever. I realize a lot of the players don’t reside in the town. We used to call it sandlot ball. There are no sandlots, there’re just houses everywhere. We don’t need another housing subdivision. We need a ballfield. We’ve got to find a way to do it. Get with the county or wherever [sic] we can do to make it work. I coached boys. I talked to one the other day. He’s a dentist. He’s got a couple of kids. Eric Simpson works here for the town. I’ve seen boys grow up. Go down to the bank and see boys I’ve coached. Find them in restaurants. It’s just good to see boys grow up. I didn’t coach softball, so I’m not cutting out the girls. I know they come up here. You see ’em working at Lowe’s or wherever, and they holler ‘hey, coach.’ It’s just something we need to keep going as the Family Beach. I realize my eligibility is out. I’m too old to play. But, there’s a lot of kids that need a place to play. I like to see the Renfrows here. Hunter was a special kid.

Mr. Dan Flood, 7th Avenue South: I’m also one of the former presidents of the association. I’m sorry to see it have to come to this, but any kind of talk about getting rid of the program [sic.] It worked great from the start. I can’t see why it’s still not working great. I can’t be a negotiator, though. We have dog parks. Why can’t we have baseball park for the kids? There’s no reason for it. Hopefully, this will all work out and the kids will stay in this program. My son grew up in it. He’s now at Alabama. Mr. Johnson said sorry. (Laughter.) Mr. Flood: We did have a hard night [referring to National Championship Game]. But it was part of this baseball program that kept him the way he was and as smart as he is to get into Alabama. Thank you.

Mr. Jeff George, Myrtle Beach: I’m vice president of the Surfside Beach Youth Association, a coach for 15 years, an umpire, and also a parent of two children. I’ve been involved with a bunch of youth organizations. Just here today to say that Surfside Youth Baseball and Softball is good for the area. It could be good to the town in the sports tourism market. It’s a hundred million dollar market out there. This keeps the kids out of trouble; teaches them life lessons, and prepares them for the future. As a coach, a coach will impact more young people in a year than the average person does in a lifetime. How many of you live in Surfside? Ever been involved in youth sports? Do you know what family community memories are? Because, that is what is going to be destroyed if this program goes away. Thank you.

Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: [I’m] one of the few residents that’s here tonight. Most of those are outside. Council has two responsibilities. Take care of the town, and take care of its residents.
With only 8.25-percent of the kids who play on those teams actual Surfside residents, I feel that the town would be better served if the teams utilized the fields out on Scipio Lane. Thank you.

Jenna Lander, Shady Grove Road: Before [the post office] gave Burgess and Socastee their own ZIP Codes, my address was Surfside Beach, and I was a Surfside Beach resident. My son and other kids...this is about more than just baseball. My son and all the kids don't just learn baseball and softball. Every single game we participate in has started with prayer, same with the practices. I'm sorry, it's not about winning and losing. We teach about being a good sport. A lot of the kids don't live in Surfside, but there's no closer league for my son and a lot of the kids in Garden City and Murrells Inlet. Where else are they supposed to go? My son and I will both be devastated if this league stops. I have more, but I can't [continue.]

Ms. Barbara Lions, South Bay Lakes: I'm here to address the lights of the fields. The high power lights on the five poles. I don't know who's responsible for turning the lights off, but it's been constant since I've moved down here. They don't turn the lights off. They're on all night long. They're beaming into my bedroom. I didn't know who to notify, because I didn't realize that Surfside Beach owned the property. Not only are they on during the night, they're on all day long. So whoever is paying the electric bill; it's got to be enormous. Are the coaches responsible after the game? Who is responsible? Somebody really needs to turn those lights. I really don't want to go through another season with lights blaring into my condo. They keep me up all night long. I appreciate any help that you can give me, and if there's a telephone number that I can obtain so that I could call when the lights aren't turned off, I would do it. Is there any help that I can get?

Mayor Childs said that Town Council could not respond, but if she would please contact the town administrator about her question, as she could help her.

Mr. Brian Pedrick, Summer Circle: I was going to come here tonight and I had what I thought was a great speech. But, first thing I want to give you guys; here's a petition that I started four and a half days ago, 922 signatures. I know all those signatures aren't out of Surfside Beach, the incorporate town, but I know a lot of those people know people that live here. So, you guys, I'll leave it here [on the podium], if you get a chance there's a whole bunch of comments. We'd appreciate you taking a look at it. I had a little speech written, but before I came, I printed out the proclamation that Mayor Childs did for Hunter Renfrow. First of all, Mr. and Mrs. Renfrow, congratulations. You guys have raised a fine young man. I guess just reading that; Mayor, did you wrote that; you write that? Those things in that proclamation, Hunter would've grown up to be a fine young man without sports. But, a lot of these qualities were advanced because of sports. We really want you guys to think about that when you're talking about that when we're talking about commitment to youth sports. I know there's been a lot of talk about what the Surfside Beach sports organization is asking for. I was at that meeting with the town and we only had a few town councilmembers show up for that meeting. At that council meeting, we never asked for anything other than for you guys to drag the field and line it according to the binding contract we had. We didn't ask for any additional monies. At that point, the councilmembers that were here addressed the Surfside Beach sports association and asked us if we could come up with a plan to take some of that off of the town. That's where financial numbers are coming from. That is to relieve the town of cutting the grass, lining the fields, dragging the fields, and all that. So, you look at those numbers. I heard some mention that there's $40,000 a year in cost and everything. If that's truly the case, then the proposal that our organization put together at $14,000 or something to cut the grass should be a great savings to the town. We would love to address it with you guys. Obviously, we don't think this is the place to do it, but we'd appreciate it if y'all would take a look at what we truly proposed. That contract was sent out to everybody. I want to thank Councilwoman Samples for responding. She was the only person that responded to any of our requests. So, Ms. Samples, thank you.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I want to talk about the ballfield. My boys played on the field there for baseball. They played football also. But, the town's decided to get rid of that. I
hate to see the baseball disappear. What happened a few years ago was that the idea was to free up personnel from the town to run the organization and give it to the parents and the coaches to do it. I don't know what happened. What I've seen is some crazy numbers that the town is saying that it cost. I'll just throw a couple of them at you. They're saying it cost around $13,116 to mow the lawns, to take care of the field. That's 475 hours. You break that down it's $27.61 per hour to cut grass. That's $57,428 salary if they did it all year long. The number doesn't seem right, because that's almost double what a police officer makes in this town. $1,200 or $1,300 in bathroom supplies? That's a lot of toilette paper and paper towels. Trash pickup is $1,200? Could be. But, that's a lot of money. What I think you guys should do is have a workshop. Everybody comes with their books; open them up, and you talk about this. It's a great thing to have. But, the town shouldn't be bearing the brunt of the whole thing. I think you should try to work this out. Thank you.

Mr. Jason Carroll, Dogwood Drive North: My wife and I moved here in 2012. We started coaching when we moved here and have been coaching the league since. I'd ask you to keep in mind that the town should feel really blessed that of the coaches you have in this league you've got a wonderful group of gentlemen like Teague Thompson, K. J. Jordan, Dan Harrell, and many others who are here tonight. We don't coach baseball. It's an outlet to teach these kids about sportsmanship, team work, responsibility; being part of something greater than the game. It gets them off the street; gets them into an environment where they can learn life lessons that carry them well beyond the ballfield. Of that, a lot of these kids come from broken homes. They don't have a father figure. So, to a lot of those kids we become somebody they can talk to. The team moms are somebody that they can cry on their shoulders when needed. Baseball is a sport. But what we do in this league goes well beyond the game. Just ask you to keep these things in mind as we move forward. Thank you.

Miss Tipton Boyle: Please keep Huckabee Park, because I have so many friends and my sister goes there, and it will mean a lot to me. Thank you.

Mr. Jeff McKinney, Murrells Inlet: This is my son, Sam McKinney. Surfside Beach is in the history books in Dixie Youth Baseball 2009 World Series Champions; 2010 World Series Champions; 2011 made it back. This boy right here, John Bacot's son, who is at West Point right now, put Surfside Beach in the books, in the history books of Dixie Youth Baseball, which will be there forever. If you take that away, what have you accomplished? Money? No, not at all. I'd like for my son to speak if he's willing.

Mr. Sam McKinney, Murrells Inlet: I brought my ring I won in 2009. I wanted you guys to take a good look at it. The 2009 World Series Champions. If one of you guys would ask me right now the greatest time I've ever had in my life, it was in 2009; the entire journey. Nobody ever believed in us, so to be able at 12 years old to accomplish something that, that goal was just (***) and it set the stone set my path toward until now. I'm 20 years old now, so it was eight years ago. I look at my athletic career in high school, going up into college, and all that was shaped around Dixie Youth Baseball. These coaches in here, I've been a part; I've been coaching in a league now. I've got a 12 year old brother back there. I'm hoping he can win one of these [championship rings] one day. Hoping he can make it back to a State Championship. So to take something like that away; it's a lot more than just a league to these kids. It's something that shapes them into the men; the man that I've become, that you guys have become, and that is what this world lacks nowadays, people being coached, people being teachable. You don't have that in the world today. Especially in the younger generation. So if you take something away, not only are you hurting this younger generation, you're going to hurt everybody out here, because there're not going to be any leaders whenever they come up, and they get his with the real world. So, that's it.

Coach Mike Hammond, Pawleys Island: I've coached fall ball and had two homerun contests at Huckabee Park. I've lived in South Carolina for 45 years including four or five different towns. I've pretty much seen every ball park in this state. What you have is not a ball park. It's a field of dreams. It is on
the water, which is bar none, one of the prettiest ball parks I’ve ever seen. Myrtle Beach may have one pond. Georgetown may have one pond. But, all of your fields have the ability to face that pond. It is absolutely gorgeous. What I would ask is go to North Myrtle Beach. Look at their ball park. Go to Eight Oaks in Georgetown. Look at their ball park, and ask yourself why are they spending millions and millions of dollars when Surfside is going backwards? They’re putting the money in those ball parks because hundreds of teams can play there during the summer for travel ball. I would suggest getting USSSA to the field; getting Top Gun to the field, ask them what can we do to upgrade these fields where people want to come here. People from Pawley’s don’t come up here and play ball and go home. We come; we play ball; we buy gas; we buy food. We would stay here if it was a weekend tournament, if we were from out of town. So, I would suggest looking at the other towns. Be like them and go forward instead of backwards. Thank you.

Ms. Erin Freeman, Myrtle Beach: I am the mother of four kids that play on this field. One is four years old today. Instead of being at home, this is how important this is, I’m here with you all having this lovely meeting. So, instead of celebrating a fourth birthday. My oldest son has autism. He stopped playing football, because of seizures. Surfside has done so much for him and for you all to take that from him is wrong. I believe if I’ve done a little bit of research, have any of you all ever played sports in high school? Youth? If so, then you would understand how important this is. My kids go to school in Burgess, so there [are] no other activities that involve baseball anywhere around here, except for going to Pepper Geddings, North Myrtle Beach, Pawleys Island, but nothing that’s close to home for a mother of four, and a husband as well. My husband is there to help. But nothing that can be feasible for us to get four kids to a game. All the kids that come from Surfside go to school where? They go to St. James High School. It’s the same high school that the same kids from the Myrtle Beach 29588, some from the 29576, go to. The same high school. So the effect this is going to cause on the students as they grow older for nothing have any league to even learn to play the game is [remarkable.] I can’t believe this. Then, not to mention, my first home was here in Surfside. I actually work in Surfside. My youngest son goes to daycare in Surfside. I buy lunch every day in Surfside. If this park gets taken away, I will refuse to do any of that. I will move my son’s daycare. I’ll be more than happy to bring my own lunch to work, because that is wrong to take something from a child. Thank you.

Ms. Mandy Moniken, Coventry Road: I found out that this program might be taken away and the field might be shut down from us. I immediately emailed you, Mayor Childs. I also emailed you, Mr. Pellegrino. I am very active in trying to get this to stay. My children, Johnathan and Matthew, were on the Padres. Go Padres! These wonderful, wonderful men that volunteer to coach this program, oh, it breaks my heart. They taught my boys how to play. My boys can hit a ball. They can catch a ball. They know what’s happening on the field. They didn’t know that before. They have something where they can be in a program and stay in a program. They can keep up with this for I don’t know how long. I didn’t know where else to take them. I was very proud of myself to find this online and get them involved and sign them up. We take them, I take them to every game, every practice. We didn’t miss one. We’re part of a team. I’m begging you, please don’t take our program for our boys. Something else that I have to say, it may be silly, but I just can’t help it. I mean you want to take this program. Has anybody heard about the heroine epidemic we have going on? Let’s keep our program.

Mr. Zeb Davis, Murrells Inlet: I would like to go back about 45 years. When I was nine years old I played baseball at Martin Park. I grew up in Long Bay Estates, which some of y’all may know where that is. We had an option of Myrtle Beach or Surfside. My father put me in Surfside. I played ball for about six years in Surfside prior to going to high school. My youngest son, who’s now in college, played baseball in Surfside for about 12 years from T-ball right on through until he went to high school. I’ve come back and coached in Surfside for about 15 years. John Bacot, who I saw in attendance here, he drafted me one day. I was at every practice. So, he said, you know, if you’re going to be here, you might as well help coach. So, my youngest now is 11 years old. He’s been in the town of Surfside playing baseball for about six years now. I’ve coached all the way through with him, also. One of the points I’m trying to make here is I was outside, so I don’t know if I’m going over old ground here, but
the program of baseball in the town of Surfside is so far reaching. I don't know if I can put into words how instrumental it is in young people's lives. I talked to the mayor on the phone last week. I've also read in print a couple of times that, and I think this was pulled from the fall ball that only 10-percent of the registrants for the league were from Surfside. I don't know if that would hold true if the same registration were for the spring ball. Mainly your hard core players play in the fall ball, so you're pulling them from a lot of different areas. But even if that is the accurate number, even in spring ball, the point is this program is so important to so many kids. I don't know if anyone else has touched on this also, but we practice prior to the season for five days a week. Pretty much all the way through. We'll have two games and then make three practices during the season. So that's five days a week that families, even if they're not from Surfside, are coming into Surfside. They fill up their gas tanks at the gas stations. They eat at the restaurants. On top of that, you're building good will so that maybe some of the same people who don't live in the town of Surfside now may move into the town of Surfside. The main thing I wanted to get to here is I'm 54 years old. I've had an affiliation with Surfside baseball since I was nine years old. My wife is a local attorney in Surfside. So although we don't live here, we're here and we are eating in your restaurants. We're participating in a lot of activities (time ended). I just wanted to say how much I support the program and a lot of people who come from outside of Surfside, what a big difference it makes in these children's lives, and the things that they learn on these ballfields carry throughout their lives. I'm perfect example. I started when I was nine years old, and I've come back (gavel) and helped coach. My children come over here and play. I just really hope that council seriously, seriously considers the intangible assets to a society as a whole that you can't just measure with dollars. (Gavel. Mayor Childs said thank you.)

Mr. Will Rabon, Myrtle Beach: I also grew up playing in Surfside and coached. I just want to address some of the specific things that I think maybe there may be some miscommunication between our board and council. I'm the current president of the Surfside Beach Youth Sports Association. The growth in our program; Huckabee Field was purchased in 1980. Sometime in the early '80s it was opened to make four fields in this area. Scipio has built three more, and make sure that this council knows we do utilize Scipio's fields for practices and our T-ball and coach pitch. When we took over we had added a four year old league, and I think we added five year olds to play with six year olds. So we added four and five year olds, since we took over. We also added eight youth softball; we added a 15 youth softball league. So we have a lot more kids playing, and Scipio fields are already utilized. They don't have lights. We wish they would build lights, but the point is that since 1980 to now, they've added three more fields. So, it's not like we have too many. If Huckabee closed, even if they put lights in, there would not be enough to accommodate what we need, because we're already using those fields. Making sure that you also know that we don't need more money than we did last year. I think there has been; some of that information gets back to us that this council thinks we need more money. That we've asked for more money than we had last year, and that's not the case. If we went back to the exact same; if staff did the same thing they did last year with dragging, line fields, cutting the grass we are sufficient and performing and performing fine. We're not asking for more money. That came from the notion of if Surfside quit providing the services that they were providing and we just were using the fields, what would we need if we presented it that way. So, that all may have come out of a miscommunication. But that's what we thought we were asked to do, so that's what we did and that's the amount of money we think it would take, if Surfside did hand that task to us. We don't necessarily think that that's a bad idea and it's something that we could move forward. Similar to when Mayor Samples offered that to us several years ago to take some of the responsibility that the town staff was doing to better the program. We're always looking for ways to do that. Definitely, you see from the evidence of the folks here, we're willing to help. It's just a, we want to know from a commitment from the town that Huckabee is going to be there. We want to know, what definitely concerns us is what appears to be the research going in the alternate uses for Huckabee, and possible sale of Huckabee. We would love to know that (time ended) that's off the table that we can work on planning something else. Thank you.
Mr. Richard Parisau, Plantation Drive: I grew up in this town. I was born and raised in this
town. There's a lot of people moved to this town. But, I am born and raised right down Pine Avenue
right here by the police station. I played for this rec. Now I get to watch my son play the same ball on
the same teams I did, and I get to do that and that is just, there's no words for it. I'm hoping that I can
actually grow old in this town and watch my son and his son play ball for this rec. You don't need to get
rid of it. There's ways of doing it. You need to come up with a batter plan than just get rid of it. So,
thank you.

Ms. Tiffany Carroll, Dogwood Drive North: My husband did speak earlier. As he said, he is a
coach in this league; has been for five years. My son has played in this league for five years. He's even
been on the All Star team representing Surfside Beach, proudly wearing Surfside Beach on his jersey
whenever we travel for tournaments. One thing that I want to do, any child that plays in our league,
please stand. (About 12-15 children stood.) I want you to look at these faces. These kids love playing
this game. There's a lot of kids that aren't here, like mine. He's got homework, so I wouldn't let him
come. Please take a look at these faces and consider this and do not shut our program down.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Proclamation #17-112 proclaiming Hunter Renfrow Day in the Town of Surfside
Beach, Mayor Childs and Councilmember Stevens. (This added by approved motion, see Agenda
Approval, Item 3 above.)

Mayor Childs and Mr. Stevens presented Mr. and Mrs. Renfrow with Proclamation #17-112. The
proclamation was read by the clerk, a copy of which is on file. Multiple originals of the proclamation were
prepared for distribution to Mr. Hunter Renfrow, his parents who accepted the proclamation on his
behalf, and Socastee High School.

Mayor Childs called recess at 7:12 p.m. to allow time for the guests to leave and those standing
outside to come in and be seated. Mayor Childs reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

A. Resolution from Stormwater Committee Supporting a Stormwater Utility Fee,
Director Adair.

Mr. Adair presented the resolution on behalf of the stormwater committee, a copy of which is on
file. He explained that Town Council authorized a study last year regarding stormwater utility fees. The
committee has discussed the proposed utility fee multiple times. The committee was proactive in
presenting its support for the proposed utility fee. The resolution was presented for Town Council's
information.

Mr. Stevens thought this should be discussed at the vision meeting. Mr. Adair explained that the
committee supports the fee, and wanted council to know that in advance. Mr. Stevens was skeptical of
the project costs and wanted a minimum five company bid.

Mr. Ott said much of the town's infrastructure had been neglected for years, and needed to be
repaired, particularly swashes and bridges over Ocean Boulevard.

Mr. Johnson said this is not a Town Council resolution; it is from the stormwater committee and
is for information. The Melody Basis issue is important to him, because it has been ongoing for years,
and involves the county and the town.

Mayor Childs said Mr. Johnson was right; the resolution from the stormwater committee just
states the members' opinion.
B. Department Reports.

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

Mayor Childs said several individuals commented that this was the best Christmas parade we had in a long time.

Mr. Courtney asked how much the parade float cost. Ms. Ellis said the town rents them; it is $500 for the day. The town pays for the council's float; other participants either pay or have sponsors that pay for their floats.

Mr. Stevens asked how many spots were available for the barbeque festival. Ms. Ellis said 19 vendors were registered now. There was room for as many as 75 could participate, if the event is on Surfside Drive.

ii. Finance. Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Ms. King noted that a transfer was made from the hospitality fund and also the pier enterprise fund into capital projects for the next beach renourishment project, which we expect to do later in the spring. There is $282,000 set aside for beach renourishment. After the accommodations tax meeting, additional funds are expected to be transferred to beach renourishment.

Ms. Samples referred to beach renourishment expenditures and asked if a $1.3 million check was sent. What is the additional expense? Ms. King said we did. At this point we are anticipating receiving some money back from the state that was advanced on its behalf by the town. In May, we expect to have to pay some more towards beach renourishment. Then after the additional amount is paid, a portion of that is expected to be returned by the state. Ms. Samples asked if the suggestion was that beach renourishment would cost more than $1.3 million. Ms. King replied not in the end; the town might have to advance more money, but it would be reimbursed. Ms. Samples asked any funds were received from FEMA for Hurricane Matthew cleanup. Ms. King said there are two requests pending. Ms. Samples asked what the balance is in the tree mitigation fund. Ms. King said those monies are in the general fund. She believed the balance was $9,000 as of June, but would provide an updated balance.

Mr. Courtney asked where beach renourishment money is kept. Ms. King said in the capital projects fund. Mr. Courtney asked if the spreadsheet for Hurricane Matthew was forthcoming. Ms. King believed that Mr. Adair was preparing that.

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

Mr. Ott asked if the fire department ever inspected the electrical components at the pier, as he knew of one place where extension cords wrapped with electrical tape were being used and another where there was an outlet plate, but there was no outlet. Chief Otte said the areas would be inspected tomorrow.

Ms. Samples said in the essence of time, she would pose her questions at the vision meeting on Thursday.

iv. Planning, Building & Zoning. Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. She noted that the department's Hurricane Matthew assessment was completed. There is on home on the south end of town will possibly be condemned and removed; staff is still trying to determine the legal owner. The business committee is met on January 19th, and will meet again to discuss the sign ordinance, which she hopes will be a final review so it can be presented to the planning commission; the town attorney for final approval. The planning commission also reviewed the
tree ordinance at two meetings and will continue reviewing it at the next regular meeting on February 7th, which she hopes will be the last discussion before the public hearing and sends its recommendations to Town Council.

Mr. Stevens said for the record, the business committee meeting will be held at 8:15 in the morning at Benjamin’s Bagels on 3rd Avenue South, if anyone wants to attend.

Mr. Ott asked if there were only four phone calls in November and December. Ms. Morris explained that those four calls were for the code enforcement officer. Each staff member keeps a record of their own calls. Mr. Ott asked if all the calls could be included next month. Ms. Morris said absolutely.

Mr. Courtney asked if the house they had discussed on 3rd Avenue South and Seaside was the one being condemned. Ms. Morris said no, there are problems with that house, as well. A letter was sent to their attorney asking if the town could empty the pool, because the gentleman is incapacitated. Mr. Courtney asked if the premise was secured, because there is danger because of the unsecured, half-filled swimming pool. Ms. Morris said staff put up the caution tape, but nothing else can be done that involves costs until the town administrator gives her direction, or until the attorney responds. The management company said the owner did not want them to handle the situation. Ms. Morris believed there was a case like this in the past in which the town secured the pool. Mayor Childs said it was on Seaside Drive North. Ms. Fellner said she and Ms. Morris would discuss this, but Mr. Courtney’s point was well taken, and she agreed.

Ms. Samples said Ms. Morris was well prepared for the business committee meeting on the sign ordinance. Job well done. The meeting moved along beautifully, and I appreciate that. A lot was accomplished in a short amount of time. She asked how the surveys that her department receives from town residents are handled. Ms. Morris said they are delivered to the administrator and then to her department. She has a spreadsheet that she can email to the council members. Ms. Samples said she would appreciate that.

v. Police. Chief Keziah presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. A heroine and opiates symposium is being held at the First Baptist Church, 16th Avenue North and Cherry Drive, on Monday, February 27th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the town’s police department, the Citizens and Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee that both Mayor Childs and he are members. Similar events were held in Conway and Myrtle Beach. The DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control), Horry County Drug Unit, and recovery facilities from Florence and Myrtle Beach. Personal testimonies will also be given by recovering addicts. Horry County Solicitor Jimmy Richardson will attend to discuss the drug court and adjudication processes. He would appreciate participating and attendance by everyone as the symposium is open to the public. Horry County is number one in the state for Narcan (the drug that fights opiates) deployment, according to a presentation by SCDHEC.

Mr. Ott said Sergeant Sliker and Corporal Williams should have their own television show. They are doing a great job here. Excellent work.

Ms. Samples said questions would be asked at the vision meeting, but specifically asked that Chief Keziah be prepared to address the status of the 501(3)(c) for the K9’s.

Mr. Courtney asked for an explanation of the “move over” law. Chief Keziah said that law requires a driver to move into the opposite lane anytime they are approaching an emergency vehicle to pass the police car, or other emergency vehicle. There is another ‘move over’ law that stipulates the left lane is to be used for two reasons: passing a vehicle and making a left turn. Left lanes are not for everyday driving. Mr. Courtney said he sees many cars that do not move over when passing stopped
officers. It’s horrifying to watch these people cruise by at 45 miles per hour. There were 326 traffic stops this month. There were 48 speeding, three to seven stop signs for the month. We have more speeding in residential than we do on Highway 17. Chief Keziah believed that was correct, mainly because of the complaints the department answers by checking specific areas for speeding traffic. When complaints are made a quality of life case is opened and resources are used to devote special attention to the area to alleviate the problem. Mr. Courtney would appreciate more effort in controlling residential areas speeding. It was his discretion as far as summons or warnings. He encouraged residents to slow down. There are families here; population has doubled, you have to slow it down going through the side streets. A lot of the traffic passing through is from nonresident drivers using the town as a bypass. Keep in mind if you see a police vehicle, move to the far lane to protect our officers.

Mayor Childs said that is a violation in some states. Chief Keziah said it is in South Carolina, also.

vi. Public Works. Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached thereto.

Ms. Samples thanked Mr. Adair for the quick response to repair the lattice work on Dogwood. Questions will be asked at the vision meeting, but she was curious about the high number of tilted electrical poles around town. Mr. Adair said when complaints are made or staff sees them, Santee Cooper is contacted to make repairs.

Mr. Ott said there are no ‘leash laws’ published on the beach access signs. Mr. Adair said there is a leash law in place throughout town. It is not on those signs, which have not been updated in at least seven years. Many people think the signs are too wordy. Mr. Ott said that was right. Mr. Adair said suggestions are sometimes received from the public and his usual response is we cannot keep adding more. Mr. Ott asked if that could be added.

Mr. Courtney said the finance report showed there were fewer sanitation commercial pickups. Mr. Adair explained that the number of pickups vary monthly, depending on the season, storm events, and the business owner’s need; sometimes owners change the schedule every month. The finance report shows a net year-end number for comparison purposes. Mr. Courtney asked if the town’s rate was competitive with Waste Management. Mr. Adair said yes, the town keep its rate just below the competitors. Mr. Courtney asked if the beach walkovers would be finished by Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Adair said yes; five walkovers would be restored by then. Two walkovers will be enlarged this season. Thirty of the 35 missing trash cans were replaced on the beach. Mr. Adair said the town should get reimbursed about $400,000 by FEMA for storm related damage. Mr. Courtney reiterated his request to see the overall cost and impact to the town caused by Hurricane Matthew. Ms. Fellner indicated that she would address that.

Mr. Ott asked if the 4th Avenue pedestrian bridge could be built wider over the new swash. Add your creativity to it.

C. Administrator’s Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. She met today with Horry County regarding the SWA (Solid Waste Authority) increase. County Council Chairman Lazarus said the original cost proposal of $92,000 for the town from the SWA is not likely to be as high as first anticipated. He felt the increase would be significantly more modest, but could not give specific details.

Mayor Childs thanked Ms. Fellner for scheduling the pier workshops. A weekday morning and evening, and a weekend meeting, which would allow everyone to attend at least one meeting. Excellent job.
Mr. Ott asked wanted to see the SLED (South Carolina Law Enforcement) investigation completed and everyone be informed of the outcome as soon as possible. Ms. Fellner said we are not trying to keep anything from the public or Town Council, but SLED has said this is an ongoing investigation and they do not want anyone speaking about it. When SLED advises that the details can be discussed, she will be happy to do so. She believes the public has a right to know; but we cannot act against a directive from SLED. Mr. Ott asked if actions were taken to prevent future occurrences. Ms. Fellner said countermeasures were taken, which is part of the SLED investigation. Staff has gone overboard in the other direction to put triple measures into effect. Electronics were added allowing more control through the computer, which helps in many ways. Mr. Ott said this is an open wound for the town and he would like to see it fixed. Ms. Fellner agreed, but said again, she cannot speak on it at this time.

Ms. Samples said for the record, “Out of the three pier workshops, I will only be allowed to attend the first one, which is March 9th. April 3rd I will be out of town and May 13th I will be out of town.” She asked if Ms. Fellner new Edisto Beach began renourishment that was first estimated at $13 million and now it is a $17.5 million project. Ms. Fellner said yes; the Corp (US Army Corp of Engineers) wants additional $692,000, so the town’s share would be $346,000. If Reach 1 gets funded with Reach 3, and the Corp bids the projects together, we may have a chance of getting a much better price. They also want to leave the window open, which would mean that some places may get sand pumped in the summer. Ms. Samples asked why the lots at 3rd Avenue South and Willow Drive are posted no trespassing, and why there are stakes in one area. Ms. Fellner explained that the ground is hazardous because it is not level, and has roots above ground. The archaeological dig is still on-going, which accounts for the stakes. Several people tripped during the Living History Day, and thankfully no one was hurt. Ms. Samples asked when that would be corrected so the public can enjoy that property. Ms. Fellner said understands the question, but these lots could be part of the possible conversion. We would do nothing with the property until such time as it was determined that could happened. Ms. Samples said for the record, “I am uncomfortable I get why, I get why we’re trying to protect our residents. But, those lots belong to the public, and I sure would like for them to be able to enjoy them.” Ms. Samples continued saying some of the received a question from a town resident asking what the final cost was for the 4th Avenue swash. Ms. Fellner said the project was budgeted at $173,950. The final cost will not go over that amount, but there are still two bills outstanding. To date, $152,194.99 has been paid.

Mr. Ott said he asked the public works director why the beach is smaller on the south end, and according to Mr. Adair when beach renourishment is done, it’s gaged by topographical height. He asked if the beach could be made wider with more sand and still meet the height. Ms. Fellner said the Corp controls all of that, but she could ask. Mr. Ott wanted the beaches on the south end as wide as the north end, if possible. He also suggested that a “trip at your own cost” sign be placed on the lots at 3rd Avenue South, and the ropes be taken down.

Mr. Johnson asked regarding beach renourishment, he appreciated Ms. Samples’ comments. When he read other areas were being renourished, because he assumed that we were going to be one of the first to get renourished. That being said, the Corp wants more money, potentially will the town be renourished during the summer. Ms. Fellner said the other renourishment is being done is because the bid, which were 25-percent over the estimated cost, for Reach 3 failed. Had it not failed, renourishment would be underway now. The Corp is trying to combine the projects for Reach 1 and Reach 3, which would save on deployment costs. Every deployment cost $6 million. If the three Reaches are done together, that is a $12 million savings. There is not as much sand loss in Reach 2, because those beaches are in the middle of the bowl and it benefits from our sand and Murrells Inlet sand that washes on to the beach at Myrtle Beach. Mr. Johnson said in the 80’s North Myrtle Beach was the only beach you could drive on. Those beaches were extremely wide like Daytona Beach in Florida. He heard comments that there are pier timbers are embedded in the sand out in the water at low tide around 15th and 16th Avenues North. Mr. Adair said he had not heard that, but he would check. Ms. Fellner said the
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 24, 2017

US Coast Guard was sent a letter regarding the pier pilings in the water at the end of the pier, after being called several times by Mr. Adair. The Coast Guard is supposed to determine whether a buoy is required.

Mr. Courtney asked again about the spreadsheet for Hurricane Matthew costs. Ms. Fellner was under the impression that what Mr. Adair had prepared was what he wanted. I think you and I need to meet to discuss exactly what you want, and I will execute for you. Mr. Courtney wants to let the taxpayers know exactly what it cost us for Hurricane Matthew so we would know what we are up against if we had a more serious storm. A cost analysis to determine overtime, equipment, etc., would enable us to make better plans for the future. Ms. Fellner said those numbers are available, but she wants to know exactly what you want. Mr. Courtney said he would schedule an appointment. I agree with Ms. Samples about the lots. What will be done with them? Ms. Fellner reiterated since they may be involved in the conversion, she would rather not speak to that at this time. Mr. Courtney agreed with Mr. Ott about the SLED investigation. The people have waited for a long time, and we need to move forward with that right away. He asked if any plans were made for 3rd Avenue South business district improvements. Ms. Fellner said that would be discussed at the vision meeting. The town has a $100,000 grant from the state and $225,000 from CTC (the County Transportation Committee), council will need to decide whether to move forward, because an additional sum is needed to complete the project. Mr. Courtney asked if anything had been done at this point. Ms. Fellner asked Mr. Adair, who indicated nothing was prepared at this point.

Mayor Childs said he and Ms. Fellner spoke about this project and he believed Mr. Adair was going to come up with the amount needed to complete it. Ms. Fellner said that will be presented at the vision meeting.

Mr. Ott asked how do we know we need more money when we don't know what we're going to do. Do we have a plan? Ms. Fellner said there was a plan presented to CTC and to the state for the grant from PARD. Mr. Ott said so we do know what our plans are. Ms. Fellner said we don't have a rendering or engineering plans. The answer is yes, we know we want sidewalks. Mr. Adair said when the town applied for money from the state, we asked DDC Engineers to give us a probable cost for the job and to provide an aerial overlay of how it might look when completed. There are no engineered plans. Mr. Ott said that was what he was asking about, and thank you for getting that money.

Mayor Childs asked if Ms. Fellner could get some type rendering that council could see. Mr. Adair said the aerial view overlay would be provided. A drawing was given to Senator Cleary about a year ago, which would give the councilmembers some idea. Ms. Fellner said it would be emailed to councilmembers.

Mr. Courtney said he was sure the parking committee would have a role in this project. Ms. Fellner said she asked the committee at its last meeting if they would look at the area sooner rather than later to avoid removing any new infrastructure. The parking at 3rd Avenue South is very limited. We might be trying to help them, but end up do a disservice. Mr. Courtney asked if the same sketch could be sent to the parking committee. Ms. Fellner said of course. It would be sent council and the parking committee members.

Mr. Stevens said once again DDC Engineering was mentioned. He asked if there is any reason we have to use DDC on every project. Can projects be bid through other reliable engineers? Ms. Fellner explained at the last meeting that engineering is a professional service, and is not required to be bid. If Town Council wishes a RFQ (request for qualifications) be let for engineering services, she would be happy to do so. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Ott believed that an RFQ should be let; no other members commented. Ms. Fellner said DDC had done a very good job so far throughout the town.

7. BUSINESS
A. Resolution #17-178 to Accept Memorandum of Understanding with City of Myrtle Beach Police Department, Chief Keziah.

Mr. Johnson said point of order, and asked if the resolution could be read. Mayor Childs said a motion was needed to bring the resolution forward. Mr. Johnson moved to bring the resolution to the floor. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Keziah presented the Resolution #17-178, the decision paper and Memorandum of Understanding, copies of which are on file.

Mr. Ott moved to send the agreement to the organizational committee. Mr. Stevens second.

Mr. Pellegrino asked Chief Keziah to explain how this would work. Chief Keziah said basically this is a housekeeping matter. The town has always had a standing memorandum, which used to be called a mutual aid agreement, with the City of Myrtle Beach to provide services in case we had an emergency. For instance, if there was a murder in town, Myrtle Beach would provide major crime assistance. The town has assisted the city with its marathon. State law recently changed that now requires a Memorandum of Understanding come before the governing body. The City of Myrtle Beach, and Horry County have approved the memorandum. The town is not bound to do anything for the city, but mostly benefits the town so we can call upon Myrtle Beach if we need assistance. Mr. Pellegrino said this was business as usual; this was just formalizing the memorandum. Chief Keziah said correct.

Mr. Ott said understood the agreement to say that police from the two departments were moving between the two cities. Chief Keziah said the memorandum gives the police officers authority to come into town, if they are called. For instance, the town has no equipment to process a murder scene. With this memorandum, the City of Myrtle Beach Police Department would send its crime scene unit to the town to assist us. The town will not be answering calls in Myrtle Beach or vice versa. The memorandum was prepared by the Solicitor’s office to comply with State Code.

Mr. Courtney said this was nothing new; just changing wording. We have mutual aid and the town would respond to Myrtle Beach if there is call for assistance. Chief Keziah said correct, but honestly, the town has never responded to the city to assist, except a few years ago the town’s department helped by providing one officer for traffic control during the annual marathon. However, the town has called on Myrtle Beach to assist us on crime scenes many times. Mr. Courtney said this is not to exchange police officers when there is car short. Chief Keziah said nothing like that; basically, this is housekeeping because it is required by state law now. Unless this memorandum is in place, the town cannot request assistance. Mr. Courtney believed the memorandum of understanding terminology caused the problem, instead of using mutual aid. Chief Keziah said that was a change in terminology in the South Carolina State Statute.

Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #17-178. Ms. Herrmann said a motion is on the floor that has to be addressed first.

Ms. Samples appreciated Chief Keziah’s comment that this is a housekeeping item. She read much more than that into the memorandum and thought it had a number of issues that need to be addressed. In her opinion, the organizational committee should consider this. When the rationale for recommendation says this will allow Surfside Beach police to utilize specific resources from the City of Myrtle Beach Police Department during emergency situations, crime scene processing, and special event assistance, my concern is that we are going to get into the same situation we are currently with the fire department where the majority of the calls that the town is responding to are outside the town. She was concerned that the mutual aid agreement with the City of Myrtle Beach, knowing the problems it has on the south end of the city limits that the town police will wind up taking calls in the south end of Myrtle
Beach. She needed assurance that that would not happen. The best way to achieve that assurance was for the Chief to meet with the organizational committee. Chief Keziah said whatever you need.

There was much more discussion about the intent, purpose, and possible changes to the Memorandum of Understanding, after which Mr. Pellegrino said at some point we need to trust our staff to do their jobs. We second guess everything we do here. I do not agree with it going to the organizational committee. Chief Keziah explained it; again, we need to trust our staff and lead their departments.

After further explanations and comments, Mayor Childs called for a vote on the motion to send it to the organizational committee.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney and Samples voted in favor. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino and Stevens voted against. MOTION FAILED to defer to the organizational committee.

Mr. Stevens moved to approve Resolution #17-178 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, and Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

**B. Surfside Beach Youth Association Contract, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmember Courtney.**

Mr. Ott moved to approve the current contract with the Surfside Beach Youth Association (the association). Mr. Courtney second.

Mr. Ott wanted to review the problems that exist with the association, and the tax dollars coming from the Town of Surfside Beach. Before I sat on council, almost every time I was on Glens Bay Road I saw the lights on at the ballfield. That tells me we have a lack of respect for the use of the dollars. I would like to see respect for the use of the town’s dollars and that way we could take that money and improve that ground. I’m not proud of what I see over there. For years we should have set money aside for improvements. We haven’t. We’ve been handing money over and nobody knows where it’s going. We never see the books; nobody ever sees anything. By just looking at the parcel where we have all these lights burning all the time, I don’t think the money is used for the best. I want ball teams playing at Huckabee, and I want the sports association to be successful, but I also want every penny to be used correctly. If the money is managed correctly, maybe we could save it and eventually have a youth center and a place where basketball and other sports can be played.

Mr. Courtney said when this was presented to us, three councilmembers were assigned to meet with Mr. Rabon and work this out. With the season coming up on us now, I am not going to stop the kids from playing ball. But, I read the contract and I’m not happy with it. I feel the association did not hold up its contract terms. I think there was more they could have done. The contract requires the association to provide its books; I’d like to see them as soon as possible. I would like to meet with the association. I agree with Mr. Ott, we’re not going to shut down the ball teams without having all the facts. I hear it cost $44,000 in taxpayers’ money. I’m very concerned about that. The taxpayers should not be footing the bill or paying more than their fair share. My problem is not with the kids playing, but with an association that makes money with sponsorships, but there is no reporting to the town. One more season will not hurt; but, the association needs to meet the terms of the contract. The town does not have the money for the association’s wish list. The contract needs to be negotiated for the future, but it should not be done at the end of the season.

Mr. Pellegrino said the budget meeting is on Thursday. This is one of the topics that needs to be discussed. We talked about stormwater projects, the pier rebuild, multiple swashes to be repaired, beach
renourishment, and huge expenses. We talked about a stormwater utility fee, which is really an extra tax. There are many retired people on fixed incomes. We have all these costs and then we’re spending $40,000 plus on baseball leagues. That’s fine. I want the kids to be able to play. The contract presented to us was not the solution. But, we have a responsibility to all taxpayers. Ninety percent of the players live in the county. Someone mentioned we need to see if the county can help fund the program. I agree with that 100-percent. We need to have a fair compromise and contract. I agree with Mr. Courtney that we continue with the old contract for the spring season. By fall, a new contract should be in place that is fair to everyone.

Mr. Courtney asked Mr. Rabon to make an appointment with the finance director.

Mr. Johnson moved to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Rabon to address Town Council. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Rabon said the books were delivered to the finance director today about lunch time. Every year since the association’s inception, the books have been delivered to staff according to the terms of the contract. Speaking for all the coaches in the room, we are offended that we are accused of leaving lights on. Nobody’s perfect, but if the lights are on there are teams practicing. We turn them off when the fields are empty. The associate pays its portion of the power bill based on an invoice sent by the town. The association is always preparing for the next season. One season ends in October; registration for the spring season begins in January. Regular season ends when school gets out. June 1st the All Stars program begins. Fall ball registration begins in August or September. The association will meet at the town’s convenience. We would love to see where the town’s $40,000 is being spent, and maybe the association can help with that, which is what the goal was during the 2012-2013 season when Mayor Samples was on council: lowering cost and improving service.

Mr. Courtney said the association was supposed to be self-sufficient within a certain amount of time. Mr. Rabon said the association has never taken a penny from the town, the town only provided the services agreed to in the contract.

Ms. Samples said there is so much misinformation about this situation. It is just unfortunate. Hopefully, at this meeting we can control some of that. I’m so sorry that we are even having this conversation. There are two issues: what are we doing with Huckabee Complex, and how are we handling the baseball and softball situation? I can assure you as relates to Huckabee, there has been no official act to alter the use of Huckabee. There have been some saying they would like to sell Huckabee, all council has done is discuss the possibility of unencumbering it from the PARD grant so, in my opinion, we could do a number of things with it; but I do not support selling it. I think it is an important asset. I am an advocate for the youth programs. I would like to see more youth programs in town. Our demographics are changing. We’re getting more families with children moving in. I think that it is important that we have dialogue between staff and the association, which is what we tried to do in December. The direction was very clear at that meeting that the association would tell the town what you needed in your opinion to make the program a success. Then we said, “You bring us what you want and we’ll tell you what we’re willing to give you.” Mr. Rabon agreed that was correct. Ms. Samples said the town has not done its part yet. We need to tell you what will and will not work for the town.

Ms. Samples said as it relates to the current contract and Mr. Ott’s motion, the current contract has no term ending. It says, “This agreement shall commence with the effective date hereof and shall remain in full force and effect indefinitely, unless and until cancelled by either party pursuant to the provisions of this agreement.” So, we don’t need to make a motion to continue the contract. My suggestion simply is that the association meet with the town administrator, the town finance director, and the public works director. We know what you need to effectively run the youth association program. Frankly, I think it’s been going smoothly until July. It’s a disappointment that there was a breakdown in communication. I think that is all it was; it was that simple. I appreciated the emails for your supporters
and those who attended tonight. We want to be good neighbors. Providing programs for the children is paramount and we need to invest in them. Unlike some other councilmembers, money is not a big issue when it comes to investing in our youth, because if we don't do that, they may wind up on the streets. Huckabee was a gift to the town. We are fortunate to have it and I hope we are fortunate to keep it. I hope we can all work together to continue the youth programs. Your association has shown it is willing to do so.

Ms. Samples reiterated her request to that the administrator, finance director, and public works director meet with the association and asked if Mr. Rabon agreed. Mr. Rabon agreed, and said the association was willing to take on more responsibilities, if that helped with cost. He asked if the town could help with fund raising; there are avenues other than taxpayer money in which the town could help. He explained the various components of the association and the position duties, but there no one had time to manage fund raising projects. Ms. Samples asked if the town did any promotion for the association on the town’s website or advertising. Ms. Fellner said not too much. Ms. Samples said this is the kind of collaboration that needs to exist to make it successful. She hoped we head in that direction.

Mr. Stevens said he coached kids for many years. It is a benefit for all kids to participate in sports. Ninety-five percent of the kids I coached attended college. Hunter Renfrow is a good example. He played baseball. I am a big proponent of sports for kids. When this was first brought up, Mayor Samples said this would be self-funding. Now there is a list of demands, and I’m asking what happened. The association had 666 players and charged registration fees at $55 each. That’s $36,630 brought in on registration fees. Perhaps registration fees should be increased. Mr. Rabon said ages seven and up are charged $55 per player. The four, five, and six year olds are only charged $45. There is a large number of players in those age groups. Yes, the fee could be raised. Georgetown County charges $45 to our $55. Mr. Stevens said Myrtle Beach charges $75 if you are outside the town; $15 for town residents. Mr. Rabon believed the parents would take their children to Murrells Inlet, if the fees were increased too much. Mr. Stevens said the association should work harder to get sponsors. Mr. Rabon said the association is self-sufficient and did not ask for money from the town except for the portable pitchers mounds, which would make the ballfields playable for different leagues.

Mr. Stevens believed the fields should be rented. Ms. Ellis said the fields aren’t available to rent when the association’s leagues are using them. The association uses the fields in the summer for All Star practices and games. About the only time the field are available for tournaments is on the weekend in December and January. Mr. Rabon said it would take coordination, but it is possible. Tournaments would create property rentals. He would love to see the association succeed.

Mr. Courtney asked if the association was a nonprofit, and where the money was used. Mr. Rabon said the association is nonprofit. Fees are used to pay for umpires, insurance, Dixie Ball franchise fees, uniforms, trophies, medals, practice and game baseballs, and other game equipment. Mr. Courtney said I’m totally for the kids playing baseball. The issues today are the questions responsibilities and how money is being used. The taxpayers have the right to know where their money is going. Mr. Rabon said the association is not hiding anything. Mr. Courtney asked if coaches were paid. Mr. Rabon said no, they are all volunteers.

Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Ott withdrew his motion to continue with the same contract in light of the fact that no written notice of cancellation was served by either party upon the other.

Ms. Samples moved to have the town administrator, the finance director, and the public works director meet with the association to discuss the future and the cost involved. Mr. Stevens second.
Mr. Johnson moved to amend to allow two councilmembers to be included in that meeting. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor to amend. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.**

All voted in favor of the original motion as amended. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.**

**C. Motions and/or Directions to the Town Administrator from Executive Session.**

Mayor Childs said there were no motions or directions to the administrator from executive session.

**8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.

**A. E-Waste and Hazardous Materials Collection Policy, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott.** Mr. Ott said six days a year we allow our residents to trash their televisions. Hopefully, they are broken within those six days, or they've had their old broken TVs sitting in their living room waiting for the next chance to put it out front. Every day I see televisions out there, and now kids are having fun. I’d really like to break one of them myself. It’s very tempting. What can we do to stop this? It’s not actually working. It’s a good idea if everybody would do it, but they don’t. I don't know if people from out of town are bringing their TVs here to dump. I would like to see a dumpster put in the public works area or at town hall, and tell people they can drop off anytime.

Mr. Stevens believed there was a reason for the hazardous waste collection. Mr. Adair said the drop off events were started in 2011, when the state banned certain electronics, notably televisions, monitors, computers, and things like that from the landfills. We had to devise a plan to collect those items, without having an additional household collection. We don’t have enough staff for an additional house-to-house collection. Many municipalities have drop off events. Since the town was holding the drop off event anyway, I thought it would be a great idea to also collect hazardous waste at the same time. We don’t want an abundance of those items around town that might be washed into the water stream during a storm or hurricane. Horry County Solid Waste Authority collects hazardous waste once a month at its Highway 90 facility. But, our residents won’t drive there, so the waste continues to accumulate or it will be thrown into their regular trash can, and it will wind up in the landfill, which we don’t want. Yes, there are many people who put their waste roadside, usually in front of a wood lot, because they don’t want to wait for the drop off event. I am not in favor of placing a drop off container anywhere in town, because hearing from colleagues from other departments all tell me an unmanned container leads to contamination, scavenging, and it will cost more to get rid of the damaged materials. An intact television cost about 15 cents a pound to dispose of through our vendor; a broken television is 50 cents a pound or more. We have very little breakage using the drop off events, and pay about $5,000 a year to dispose of that electronic waste through an authorized vendor that has R2 Certification, which ensures the sensitive information will be destroyed and the items will be disposed of properly. This year we received a grant from SCDHEC to help dispose of the items. If we weren’t using an R2 Certified vendor, we couldn’t get a grant. Having said that, my best suggestion is to increase the number of drop off events, which would cost some overtime for staff to man public works during the events, maybe around $2,000. Even so, there will always be items roadside.

Mr. Ott said there is a problem, and we need to solve it. At any given time there are two or three televisions sitting around town. Mr. Adair said his staff picks them up when they see them.

Mr. Courtney asked what the current policy is for television disposal. Mr. Adair said they are supposed to be brought to public works during the drop off events. If a television is in front of a house, staff will ask the homeowner to take it back for storage until the drop off event. If it is on a vacant lot, staff will pick it up and store it at public works until the event. Mr. Courtney agreed that there should be more drop off events, but it wasn’t the average citizen leaving things roadside. There are many seasonal tourists that do not know the rules. Education is a problem.
Mr. Ott asked how Horry County handled this type collection. Mr. Adair said there is a manned convenience center at Scipio Lane.

B. Parking Committee Recommendations, Councilmember Courtney, Liaison. Mr. Courtney presented the discussion paper and proposed ordinance, copies of which are on file. There were separate issues to be addressed by Town Council:

- Pier Area Employee Parking. Recommendation to issue a colored parking decal for 30 days and designate special decal only parking on Yaupon Drive and also on Surfside Drive.

Parking Committee Chairman Kohlmann said the pier employee parking decal has nothing to do with nonresident parking. The committee did not recommend a price; if council wanted to charge that would be up to the councilmembers. The employee decal does not allow parking in any parking lot, only on Yaupon Drive and Surfside Drive. Right now, the beach goers take up all the free spaces. The business community at the pier area brought this to the parking committee's attention.

- Nonresident Parking Decal Sales. Recommendation to increase the fee from $100 to $200.

Mr. Pellegrino asked how many were sold last year. Ms. Fellner said all 100 decals were sold. Mayor Childs said there was more of a demand for nonresident decals. Ms. Fellner said as of Thursday a week ago, there were over 47 people on the list to purchase a nonresident decal. But none have been sold in anticipation the parking committee meeting. Mr. Pellegrino asked what the all day rate is at the pier now. Ms. Fellner said $10 per day. Mr. Pellegrino said it would take 20 visits to make their money back.

Mr. Courtney said there was a 100-percent increase in the parking meter cost over the past six years.

- Decal parking at the pier parking lot. Recommendation to prohibit nonresident decal parking in the pier parking lot. Nonresident decal parking will be allowed in all other legal parking places and lots. Nonresident decals will have a yellow letters over a blue background. Residents and Nonresident property owners shall be issued a decal with white letters over a blue background, and shall be allowed to park in any legal parking space or lot. The person purchasing a nonresident decal will be asked to acknowledge receipt of the parking prohibition in writing.

Ms. Samples said Mr. Courtney’s comments were confusing. Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Courtney was reading from a document that the councilmembers did not have, which is why it was confusing. Ms. Samples said the details were set out in the discussion paper under Facts/Recommendations were pretty clear. Mr. Kohlmann reiterated Mr. Courtney’s comments about the different color stickers and who would be allowed in which lots. He explained that pier parking lot fills early in the day and there is no or very little turnover. Residential property owner that do not live in town receive two parking decals, and will be allowed to park anywhere, just as resident owners do. Ms. Samples like the way Mr. Kohlmann referred to residents as people who live here permanently and those who own homes here as opposed to nonresidents that live across Highway 17.

Mr. Ott asked if the restricted areas would be posted with signs. Mr. Kohlmann said the committee suggest that those who purchase a nonresident decal acknowledge writing that they decal does not allow them to park in the pier parking lot. He believed that was fair.

- Electric Charging Station. Mr. Courtney asked councilmembers their opinion on the electric charging station. Ms. Fellner said the charging station was rarely used and was broken on and off. The mechanic has checked the station; a new one would cost between $5,000 and $7,000. This unit was
installed when gas prices were very high, and electric cars seemed to be the answer. Santee Cooper established a grant program to pay for the electricity; the manufacturer donated the charging station, and then after a year the town took over the responsibility for the electric. Originally, it was expected that the stations would be so successful that coin meters would be added so the machine would pay for itself. The program has failed here, and in North Myrtle Beach. Maybe at some time in the future, it will prove practical. When Mr. Courtney and I discussed it, we thought even though the parking committee did not take this up, Town Council might want to consider having that space. There is no parking available downtown at night; one additional space might help.

Mayor Childs had spoken with a man that has an electric car, I think the charging station is broken more than it works.

Ms. Samples asked if it was a part issue; why is it so difficult to maintain. Ms. Fellner said the model was discontinued, but I don’t know why. Ms. Samples said we could’ve gotten a lemon. Ms. Fellner said other towns that got this model under the grant have similar problems.

Mr. Ott asked if consensus was need to bring the ordinance back for first reading. Ms. Samples asked if the police chief had reviewed the ordinance. Chief Keziah said he would do so. Town Council CONCURRED.

Mr. Ott said the parking committee meeting was very well run, and he appreciated the town’s citizen committees.

C. Municipal Tax Relief, Councilmember Stevens. Mr. Stevens presented the information, a copy of which is on file, saying that the citizens can choose to adopt an additional one-percent sales tax to reduce property tax liability and raise funds for specific purposes. The program has a seven year sunset.

D. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.

There were no other matters to be discussed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Since I haven’t been around for the last three or four months, I have a couple of issues. It took about four years to finally get the garbage cans straightened out; the overflowing garbage cans in the summer time. Unfortunately, winter time we have overflowing garbage cans. The problem is in the summer time there are three pickups. In the winter time there is only one pickup. But, that’s only half of the problem. Although most of the houses aren’t rented every weekend, most of them are rented maybe once or twice a month. Some of the house are rented during the summer, I mean during Christmas, week before Christmas, week after Christmas, week after New Year’s, Thanksgiving, and the same amount of people come to those houses like it was summer time. Now, we only have one pickup. So, I’ll give you a for instance. The house across from me has 14 bedrooms, ten baths, and three kitchens. All the same house. In the summer time they've got three pickups, and they have six garbage cans. It doesn't overflow anymore. They worked out that equation. But, in the winter time there’s one pickup; and the town takes away four garbage cans. So, you’re trying to fit all this garbage into two garbage cans that are overflowing. Now, I think I’ve got the rationale why they’re saying, why they’re doing this, because they’re saying well, we’re not getting that much money in the winter time, so we’re not going to give them that many garbage cans. It’s not cost effective, but if you look at it, it they’re only getting picked up one or two weeks in the winter time, and you’re getting enough money from these people to pick up their garbage. So, leave the six garbage cans there or the four garbage cans or the three garbage cans; whatever was there in the summer time. Just leave ‘em there and this way when you do have a week that people come the garbage cans aren't
overflowing and you don’t have to send around all the public works people to pick up the garbage cans. 
You're picking up four garbage cans. You're putting them in; you're storing 'em somewhere during the 
winter, and then you bring them back in the summer. Seems kind of a waste of time. You’re talking 
about a fence by a pool. There's a fence located at the Bostonian. It’s on Ocean Boulevard at 15th 
[Avenue] South. It’s at the beach access. You walk down. There's two large sections of fence ripped 
down from the hurricane. I don't know whose responsibility it is, it would take about 15 minutes for 
someone with a hammer and a couple nails to put it back. So either the town can do it or they can tell 
the people who manage the Bostonian to fix it. There's a pool there. It doesn't look good to begin with. 
If the wind blows, it's gonna knock some little kid down and someone can drown in the pool. The other 
thing is the stormwater tax. I’m almost sure like three or four years ago, maybe two years ago, there 
was a stormwater tax. I don’t what the number was: five? Then the council decided to take that five 
and give four to the general fund and one to the stormwater, and now we’re short on money for 
stormwater. It seemed like a bad idea. I also want to talk about the dunes. If you look at the beach 
accesses on all the houses, even on the ones we have, there're stairs going up, right? You walk across a 
platform, it could be ten feet, some of them are 30 feet, some of them are 40 feet, and there's another 
stair going down the other side. Now, I’m thinking this is where the dunes, you're going over the dunes. 
In fact, I got on top of a beach access and I looked. No matter how long or how short the beach access 
was, it was always a line that they all met together. Now, why am I talking about this? In south end, 
the town decided to fill in the dunes, build them up which is a great idea. But, they left them right at the 
staircase or in front of the staircase, so you actually go over, you go over nothing. You walk up the 
stairs, you go across the platform and you come down the stairs. Now, there's no dunes underneath it. 
You walk down to the bottom of the stairs, now you're walking through the dunes. You understand what 
I'm saying? Beach access is made to walk over the dunes (time ended), not walk over nothing. Get 
down the stairs and now you have to walk over or through the dunes. You go down Melody Lane, the 
first two house are done right, and then all of a sudden they went out towards the ocean. It doesn’t 
make any sense. So, thank you.

Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: I may have been given some alternative facts. It’s my 
understanding that the department heads, all of them, are not directly reporting to council. I may not be 
phrasing that right, but it’s my understanding that the department heads, for example, could be hired or 
fired by the town administrator, and then with executive (**) you guys have a lot those (**). Then it 
would go to an executive session to settle that. I don't understand why there is another level between 
Town Council and all the department heads. It seems like they all show up and they all give you a 
report, and they're directly responsible to you. That's a responsibility that I don't think the town 
administrator should have to do, you know, as far as hiring and firing and coordinating. If he or she, 
whoever is in charge, is going to be a level of authority between town council and all the department 
heads, maybe they could just give the administrator all their reports and they wouldn't even have to 
show up. So, what I would like for you to consider is, and I think this was the case some years ago, I 
would like to see council place all the department heads, public safety, public works, whomever, all the 
department heads should be under the direct auspices of Town Council. That to me only seems logical. 
If they're responsible to you, they're responsible to you. They shouldn't be responsible to somebody 
else, and somebody else shouldn't have to take on that responsibility. That to me just makes sense. 
Maybe it doesn't make sense to you guys. That would seem logical, so I would like for you to consider 
that. In reference to the ballfields, very quickly, my children are 40 and 43. They grew up on that 
ballfield. I don't know that any of you except perhaps Councilman Stevens were here when those 
ballfield even occurred. We lost windshields. I had a dent in the top of my van from a ball that went 
over the fence. One of the people who works for parks and rec, he was such a little fella he played in the 
dirt piles when it was under construction. His mother made him take his clothes off before she’d let him 
get back in the car, because he would make such a mess. The ballfields are really important. It’s scary 
that we might even consider letting them go in any sense, cause once they’re gone, we can’t get them 
back. We might be able to do some different things with them while they’re in your control, but once 
they’re gone, they’re gone. I understand the duplication of services between what Horry County has on 
Scipio Lane and what we have here. I understand the fees for people who don’t live in Surfside. But
when you consider the vision for Surfside, one of the things that we considered a number of years ago was how could we get young people, young families into Surfside. If you want to stop the graying of Surfside, then you've got to have something available for the young people. It's not just the teams; it's just not the sports, we need to look at the overall programs. If you're going to be eliminating services that apply to young people, then maybe we just need to be Florida, and just all be retirees. There's nothing wrong with retirees. But, we need to have a healthy mix in our community. So, that's something that needs to be considered. We were at that ballfield so often, we were pretty sure that chili dogs were at the top of the food pyramid. We just lived at the ballfield. As a matter of fact, one of my sons, or both of my sons, played with Will [Rabon] and his brother from T-ball on up. So, it's been a tradition. I understand that most of you aren't that familiar with it. Only two of you actually had children who would be an appropriate age to participate, but it's important and raising the fees was brought up. I understand making things fiscally responsible. But, Ms. Samples said something about kids on the street. A lot of the kids that have the potential of being on the street can't afford it. *(Time ended)* So, we need to be real careful about that.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: I read this letter from the, extortion letter from the Surfside Beach Youth Sports Association. It to me is an extortion letter. When less than 10-percent of the kids playing in that league are Surfside Beach kids, it's pretty bad that I have to pay. I don't mind paying for our kids. But, let the county pay for their kids. Being a good neighbor gets thin after a while. We're a good neighbor with parking. We let our neighbors come over and park for free. This is costing the taxpayers of the town a heck of a lot of money for what we get. We don't get a good bang for our buck out of this contract. This is extortion. They should sing their song to the county. They shouldn't sing their song to us, because it's the county kids for the most part that are playing in these leagues. I played softball in Georgia, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania. I'm an athlete way back. Not anymore. But these people are asking for our lunch. To extort from us almost $40,000 plus all this other stuff? That's ridiculous on an old man who's on fixed income. Reading the town newsletter, front page says we don't have any money to pay the $3.5 million for stormwater. So, I know right away, I'm going to get a tax for stormwater. We used to pay five mils tax for stormwater, until our last mayor when it had a sunset after the ten year period, our last mayor kept four percent of that money, four mils of that money, and put it into the general fund. One percent stayed in stormwater. I'm not a very smart person, but I know that living here at the beach, you're gonna have stormwater problems. This man apparently didn't think that way. Bad decision on his part. Now, I'm gonna have to pay taxes for it, plus I'm gonna have to pay all this money. Nah, give me a break.

Mr. Brian Pedrick, Surfside: I just wanted to clear up a couple of things. Councilman Courtney, you were talking about the background checks. They are annual. That is a state requirement for us, and that's for everybody, through the town. So they are annual, and that's no matter who it is, whether it's a school teacher, or not. That's how we pay that. I stayed because I wanted to make sure it was clear and on record that the Youth Sports Association does not take a dollar from the town to run the baseball organization. The money that you guys provide is for the facility that you guys share, as well. I just wanted to make that clear. I guess the last thing I wanted to say was to borrow Councilman Stevens’ phrase, I'm mystified as well, Councilman, that we submit financials to you guys for the past four years, and we've had numerous councilmen up here question where the financials are, and why you guys don't know what we spend our money on. I guess before our meeting, I would hope that everybody does their research, and looks through those financial statements. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Mr. Jeff George, Enterprise Road: I want to thank you gentlemen and ladies for this evening. Like I said, there is a lot of clarification. One thing I ask, like I said, I've been a coach for years. I'm a parent. I'm involved with a lot of organizations. You guys need to be organized just like we need to be organized. That's the only reason we ended up here today. The bad part is when facts aren't being passed from one person to the other. How many people attended the meeting? How many people that weren't there at the meeting actually got the actual facts of what was being said in the meeting? The Mayor was at the meeting. Did you get the facts, [Mr. Stevens?] No, you didn't. You posted something
on the Town of Surfside Beach page. Your facts weren’t even close to being said. You want to know
about sports tourism? It’s a $100 million business. This town right here could do it. I know Mr.
Pellegrino over here. He’d like to see that field make money. He said it doesn’t do anything for the
town. That’s fine. But has anybody touched that area? I went to town hall. I asked do you have a
sports tourism director, do you have any businesses? I got your friend’s name, Sammy Truett on a sheet
of paper that the clerk gave me. I talked to him and I’m going to a meeting on Tuesday, if I wanted to
generate them business. We’re all for bringing tournaments in. I bring tournaments in here. I can bring
a lot more tournaments in here like Mr. Ott was talking about. The thing of the deal is you guys aren’t
on the page. You’re on the page as Huckabee, but you’re not on the page for hotels. You’re missing out
on a lot of visitors for the town. You don’t have to do anything. The portable [pitching] mounds that we
asked for were the only thing we were going to ask for this year, because it’s less work on Mr. Adair over
here having to dig them up and put them back down. You can just portably move these mounds and
bring in tournaments even when our season is going on, on the weekends. The tournament that we
have in November this year, 18 year olds, 300 plus people on Saturday; 200 plus on Sunday. They
played four games, because it was a showcase with 171 scouts. Grandparents were there, kids are
there. Everybody comes. You know they played four games in Surfside. They were there at 6:30 in the
morning; leave by 9:30 p.m. Are they not tired? They have to drive back to Myrtle Beach, because
that’s where their hotel is. Do you know when they Google how to get back to their hotel from Huckabee
Park it don’t take 17 Bypass. It takes them right down Spanish Oak [sic] and right by all your
restaurants. Those are information things that you need to know and you need to look at. Some of the
other comments, you quote Myrtle Beach. You’re wrong. It’s $15 and $75. Talk about people having
tight on money and stuff like that, you’re sending people to Myrtle Beach to go play ball from your area,
even though it’s not the town limit; they’re gonna pay $75, cause you’re out of town, not $45. Mr.
Stevens said that was what he said, $75. Mr. George: The background checks are for everybody. SLED,
teachers, everybody has to get it every year. We turn them into there and that’s everybody’s been told.
Teachers, SLED, I understood what you were saying. Adam Jones, I brought him in this year to coach.
He coached the eight year olds. There were other teachers that were involved. There were SLED
officers, police officers. They also had to go through the routine. That’s something I would look into.
That’s extra money that you’re spending on those background checks that if you don’t think they need to
be done, because they’re Horry County employees, which I also am a Horry County employee, or SLED,
that makes sense. You save some money right there. There’s a lot that we can do together as a group
to benefit you, just like you can do to benefit your town. You know, the gentleman back here, he
misinformed on facts. There are facts that are put out there. That proposal that was given was asked by
Ms. Samples and another council person for us to answer to the mayor’s thing about he said if (time
ended) you can have the field all to yourself, we take care of it and this and that. But nothing for you.
That was the proposal that we assumed we had to give you that we were going to control everything.
That you weren’t going to do any of the cutting of the grass or anything, that’s why it said about you just
taking care of the building and the scoreboards. Like I said, misinterpretation. I hope you gentlemen
and ladies get your work together as a group. We appreciate everything you did for us. We will work as
a group, and we look forward to talking to everybody. Thank you very much.

Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: Dear Councilmembers, I have stood before the council on
many occasions, since at least July 2016 and brought up many instances where we have violated our
own procurement codes, as well as state law regarding the open bidding opportunities for town goods
and services, including engineering and IT, as well as the noncompetitive atmosphere for insurance and
other overhead items. I have been ignored and admonished by the town administrator and her answers
to my pleas for competitive bidding have been answered that there is, indeed, competitive bidding on
construction contracts and some other items. I submit to you that no competitive opportunities are
available for the vast majority of Town purchases over $5,000 and $10,000 as outlined in our Town Code
Section 208 and 209 and our South Carolina State Procurement Code that is designed to protect us from
the exact favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption that appears to be carried out
currently. There are exceptions noted in our town code for engineering, IT, and legal, but these
exceptions do not exempt the bidding process, especially as pertains to the $10,000 threshold and the

Page 22 of 25
bidding processes outlined in Section 2-209 regarding bid advertisement, et cetera. These procedures have not been followed or adhered to costing this town an exceptional amount of monies over a long period of time because of noncompetitive bidding. The guidelines are very clear and our administrator received a January 2011 letter from the Attorney General outlining her duties and responsibilities with an admonishment that at all times the competitive free market must be paramount to any recommendations by her to you, the council. She is outside her threshold by law to arbitrarily award any amounts over $10,000 without first obtaining competitive bids, and then submitting her decision in writing to you councilmembers for your determination to award the contract. Please consider this my formal notice to you as elected councilmembers of this town, and to the town administrator who is not elected by the taxpayers, but is appointed by you, that the Town of Surfside Beach and in particular the town administrator with her actions are in violation of Town Codes as well as SC State and Federal procurement codes and regulations. Section 1-16 of our Town Code considers these civil infractions and misdemeanor offenses and each day constitutes a separate offense with a fine not exceeding $500 plus fees and assessments per day. I submit to you that the town has been in violation for many, many months and requests you implement immediate corrective action on the taxpayers' behalf in order to avoid further action. I give a copy of my statement to the town clerk. I also give a copy to each councilmember that is here in attendance, all seven of you. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's been a long night. As it relates to the baseball fields, I do want to go on record reminding council people that the operational cost that were provided that everybody keeps throwing about the $40,000 plus, we have those operational cost pretty much anyway with Huckabee. The current association is self-sufficient. They have provided their books, and they are paying their bills. Tonight, [Horry County] Councilman Tyler Servant was coming to present the town with an $11,700 check earmarked for recreation. He didn't make it tonight, he was at his own council meeting. There is an $11,700 check coming. As it relates to the budget, stormwater is two mils, not one mil. I've heard that twice tonight. I really appreciate everyone's comments. I know we're all tired. Have a lovely evening. Thank you.

Mr. Stevens: Thank y'all for coming out. I'm too tired to talk anymore. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As usual, Ms. Samples stole my thunder with the Huckabee Park. But, I am kidding. I agree with virtually everything she said. I've been on council for almost nine years now, and when I first ran I was all for the youth. I don't think we do enough for our youth, our youth programs. The last thing I want to do is get rid of the Huckabee Complex. I do think that we need to work closely with the association and obviously, we're not connected the way we should be with them. I hope that comes about very soon for the kids' sake. There was a lot of misinformation sent out, and that is unfortunate. That's about all I've got to say. I'm ready to go home and eat dinner. Thank you. God bless you, and thanks for coming.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming tonight. Thanks for all the comments. Please tell the rest of the players and parents that were here thank you for their comments. I appreciate it. I'm sure we'll come up with an agreement with the baseball. We just need to make sure we assess all the information and both sides of the situation. I'm sure we'll come up with an agreement. We have a budget meeting Thursday. That's going to be an important budget meeting. It's my third one and I still to this point haven't been involved in one where made the cuts we need to as far as spending, so we have an opportunity there. I heard twice here recommendations of adding services tonight. With the huge expenses we have, I honestly don't think we should be adding any services. That's the type of things we need to talk about at the budget meeting. Also, I heard twice about two different taxes today, possible taxes. One the ERU, stormwater utility fee, and the other a one-percent sales tax, which neither of them I agree with. Those are always the easy answer. But that just gives us more fuel for this
budget meeting coming up, so I encourage you guys to participate. That will be a very important meeting. Thank you, have a great night.

Mr. Courtney: I’m tired. But, here I go. I want to thank everybody for coming out. The information that myself and Ron Ott, [Mayor Pro Tempore] Ott that brought this out to public, instead of in executive session. We wanted to hear from both sides regarding the baseball. What I’ve gathered is two different sides and two different stories, and two different amounts of what it’s costing the town and the sports organization. So, I’m glad we brought it out to the public to hear it out here, and not in executive session. So that was important to me. I did learn and I did not know they gave over their financial information over to the finance director. So, I’d like to see those numbers. I’d like to find the truth and see where the money is actually going. To this day, I didn’t have those numbers. Again, I want to thank you for coming out. I wish the kids the best. I have two young kids. I’m not going to stop them from playing ball. We have a park over there that’s empty; there’s no reason to stop the ball playing right now. As far as Huckabee Park, this had nothing to do with getting rid of Huckabee Park. This only had to do with the contract with the sports organization, the youth organization. That was it. Thank you very much for coming out. Thank you for putting up with me. It was a long night. I’m exhausted. I don’t think I can say another word. I’m gonna go home to my wife and just say nothing. So, thank you. God bless you.

Mr. Ott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’m not as tired as the rest of them. I’m usually asleep by now. Mr. Adair, the X-Bar R chart giving us averages and ranges that’s what I asked you for before and you gave me a bar chart. But, what it will do is it will keep track of trash and everybody knows that trash is what you do in this town. Not you, I mean, but it can show you the pulse of the town. You probably know that more than anybody. By doing the X-Bar R chart a year in advance when Mr. Kohlmann says you need to take away cans or put cans in there. You can mark ‘em on your chart as they’re coming on. The Huckabee ballpark is the only other thing we have besides the skateboard park. Well, we’ve got a beach that we can use in this town. What I could say about it is it’s been neglected just like the infrastructure in our town. We need to put our money into fixing the infrastructure. We are a beach town, as the gentleman said. We need to take care of the swashes, bridges; you’re going to be very busy, Mr. Adair. We need to really look into all those. If Hillary Clinton were to look at those, she would say they are deplorable. But, she’s not here. I looked at Huckabee Park, and I wasn’t thrilled with it. Have we ever really put any effort into making it nice? Making it something that people come into our town and look at? I think in the future, we’re gonna do that, and we need to work together to get that done. Bidding? It’s gonna be competitive, and if it isn’t, we’re not gonna accept anything. I believe that $11,000 check that was coming, and I didn’t know it was coming, is for all the parks, not just for Huckabee. So, it has to be handled. Myrtle Beach, you got your way. It’s Myrtle Beach’s way and I hope it works out. But what happened to the State of South Carolina Traffic? They have police that that’s all they do. Don’t they? I just asked you that. I was surprised to hear you say that you would be most interested in the traffic tools that they have. Maybe later you can show me. Yeah, you said Myrtle Beach has more traffic tools than we can have, but we do have a State of South Carolina traffic police. I want to ask the council that we need to real soon start looking for the replacement for our administrator. She wants to retire, and she’s got like 15 months left. For the first time that I know of, we’re not gonna fire one and just grab the next guy that comes by. We’re gonna actually, we need to work up a procedure on how we’re gonna find the next person that’s gonna do Ms. Fellner’s job. I want council to do this. That’s all I have.

Mayor Childs said before his comments, Mr. Johnson’s motion to have two councilmembers meet with the youth association needs to be addressed. Mr. Ott and Mr. Stevens expressed an interest in meeting with the association. COUNCIL CONCURRED.

Mayor Childs: I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight.

11. ADJOURNMENT.
Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared and submitted by,

_______________________________________
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: February 14, 2017

_______________________________________  ______________________________________
Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

_______________________________________
Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

_______________________________________
Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

_______________________________________
Julie M. Samples, Town Council

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