CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Childs called the vision workshop to order at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott (left at 11:35 a.m., returned at 12:05 p.m.; left at 2:30 p.m., returned at 2:54 p.m.), and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens (arrived at 1:04 p.m.) 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.

Ms. Fellner reminded everyone that the vision meeting is not a budget meeting. This meeting is for Town Council to determine its priorities; what would you like to accomplish next year, and what will have to be done next year to comply with mandates. Regular budget items will not be presented today, but special requests will be brought by each department. “Vision Meeting 2017 Creating a Guide for the FY2017-2018 Budget” was presented, a copy of which is in file.

Major Mandates.

- Beach Renourishment 2017-2018 anticipated final cost for the town $1,047,480 for this beach renourishment. Reimbursements are pending from the state.
- Beach Renourishment 2028 anticipated cost $2 million. Propose saving $200,000 per year to fund. Proposed change to the fund balance ordinance to automatically transfer $75,000 from hospitality funds, $75,000 from accommodations tax funds, and $50,000 from the pier enterprise fund (after the debt to the general fund is retired in 2018) to the capital projects fund under the line item beach renourishment.

Proposed Fund Balance Ordinance Changes.

- Disaster Recovery Reserve Ordinance calls for $1.2 million by 2020. Propose saving $75,000 per year beginning FY2018-2019, which will bring the total to $1.225 million by 2028. Amend the ordinance to state by “2028.”
- Unassigned Fund Balance currently has 26-percent (3 months) per the 2016 CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Finance Report.) Continue working towards the goal of 33-percent (4 months.)
- Beach Renourishment proposals were stated in Major Mandates.
- Make other changes from this presentation as approved by Town Council.

Surfside Pier.

- Meeting with Hagerty January 30, 2017
- Meeting with Hagerty and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) January 31, 2017
- Replacement versus repair issues and concerns
Building Considerations

- RFP for design firm with structural engineer
- Public input meetings are scheduled in March, April, and May.

Funding Repair/Replacement of Swash Bulkheads and Ocean Boulevard Bridges.

- Replace as required with any combination of the following
  1. Change fund balance ordinance to automatically send 1 mil from stormwater to capital projects under new line item for bridge/bulkhead replacement project.
  2. Institute town-wide stormwater utility fee and/or assessment to be placed in capital projects bridge/bulkhead replacement project.
  3. Create special stormwater needs district with higher stormwater taxes and/or assessments tailored to cover these costs on an ongoing basis for those living in the affected areas.

- Price tag TODAY is $800,000 per swash (two bulkheads, culvert bridge and alignments with permitting and engineering.)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS.

Compensation Separation. Across the board raises, cost of living adjustments, and merit increases do not always work best with respect to employee retention. In the future Town Council may wish to consider public safety separately when deciding these matters during the budgeting process.

Rights-of-Way. The Town Code prohibits anything being placed in the town’s rights-of-way. Everything should be moved out of the right-of-way and the town should begin enforcing its code, or the code should be amended. Whatever the decision, the code should be enforced comprehensively. Town Council must direct staff in this regard.

Election Considerations. Propose changing the election from runoff to simple majority and plurality, which would eliminate runoff elections. Change elections to November term with Horry County Elections managing them, to which Town Council said no. A discussion was held regarding filing fees, $200, a month’s salary and other amounts were mentioned. CONCURRED to consider an ordinance to increase the candidate election filing fees.

Long-term Ongoing Ordinance Review. Staff to review all ordinances with exception of Chapter 17 and propose changes to administrator. This would be accomplished over time; outdated, unenforceable ordinances would be presented to Town Council for amendment or repeal.

Planning, Building & Zoning. The landscaping, tree, and sign ordinances are currently being reviewed by the planning commission, with a goal of rewriting the entire zoning ordinance. The design overlay district should be evaluated with a goal of making it more compatible with Horry County’s. Code enforcement duties impact property values. Workings towards a “friendly” code enforcement approach.

Recess at 10:34 a.m. Reconvened at 10:45 a.m.
GENERAL FUND.

Committee Funding. CONCURRED to deny any committee funding requests for FY2017-2018. Committees are to submit requests to the town administrator to determine whether funds are available.

Administration. Purchase a Varidesk for the town administrator. CONCURRED.

Court. Purchase two Varidesks for the court offices. DENIED. Courtroom Security Enhancement. DENIED.

Finance. Reception counter enlargement, $5,800±. CONCURRED to do immediately if funds are available.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL REPLACEMENT.

Digital Marquee. Cost $42,000±. DENIED. A discussion was held about securing donations for the marquee replacement through a private/public partnership. Several members supported the idea. Mayor Childs will follow up.

Vehicle Replacement. CONCURRED to replace the Streets Gator (996), and the Street F350 dump body (908) truck in FY2017-2018.

Public Works. CONCURRED to build a sidewalk between 10th Avenue North and Cedar Drive from corner to corner.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUND.

The proposed funding items were given to Town Council so members would understand the overall picture. No decisions could be made because the committee chairman would not agree to a meeting date prior to this meeting. The accommodations tax committee meeting is scheduled February 16th. Committee recommendations will be forthcoming.

Note: Mr. Ott left at 11:35 a.m.

HOSPITALITY FUND.

Events and Recreation.

CONCURRED to fund the Commemorative Wall at the Veteran’s Memorial, $10,000±.

DENIED Floral Clubhouse Renovation.

Note: Mr. Ott returned at 12:05 p.m. Lunch Recess: 12:05 p.m. Reconvene at 12:57 p.m.

Fire. DENIED ATV for beach transport.

Police.

CONCURRED to fund the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, $24,000±.

CONCURRED to remodel old Rescue Squad Building, $28,000±.

CONCURRED to purchase K-9 SUV, $47,700±.
CONCURRED to purchase patrol sedan, $33,100±.

CONCURRED to purchase it equipment for SLED mandates, $40,000±.

Note: Mr. Stevens arrived at 1:04 p.m.

Public Works.

CONCURRED to allow bids to be let for the Passive Park Restrooms, $120,000± for approval by Town Council.

DENIED viewing deck and lake enhancements at Dogwood Lake and Lake Elizabeth.

Note: Mr. Ott left at 2:30 p.m.

CAPITAL PROJECTS.

Fire.

New Hydrants and larger water mains. CONCURRED to improve 15th Avenue North and Spruce Drive; Magnolia Drive, and 3rd Avenue North and Hollywood drive, $34,000 approved 2016-2017, plus $34,000 approved 2017-2018, total cost $68,000±.

Public Works.

DENIED 1st Avenue North parking lot paving (next to firehouse.) $35,000±

CONCURRED to move forward with improvements to 3rd Avenue South from Highway 17 to Poplar Drive using monies available, $100,000 from SC State, and $225,000 from CTC. Continue seeking additional monies $125,000± or keep cost within money on hand.

Stormwater.

CONCURRED to move forward with Myrtle swash culvert bridge on Ocean Boulevard provided the RIA (Rural Infrastructure Authority) grant is awarded in the amount of $500,000; additional cost to the town may be as much as $123,661, which is the worst case scenario.

CONCURRED to add the proposed stormwater utility fee to hear public comments at the workshop scheduled on February 14, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Note: Mr. Ott returned at 2:54 p.m.

SANITATION FUND.

Capital Replacement.

CONCURRED to replace pickup truck (320), $22,000±

CONCURRED to replace front loading refuse truck (307-1), $250,000±
EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mayor Childs called for a motion to enter executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee and pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements regarding the proposed sale or purchase of real property. Ms. Samples moved to enter executive session at 3:03 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 4:06 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Childs said for the record, “No action was taken during executive session.”

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Ott moved to adjourn the workshop at 4:07 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by,

Approved: February 14, 2017
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Robert F. Childs, Mayor

Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore
Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council
David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

Julie M. Samples, Town Council
Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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