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, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Mr. Tim Harmon, Christian Support for Emergency Services, Journey Church, gave the invocation.

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

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. (A) Sign Workshop, January 12, 2017; (B) Regular Meeting (and Executive Session) January 24, 2017, and (C) Vision Workshop January 26, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the minutes of the January 12th sign workshop, the regular meeting (and executive session) of January 24th, and the vision workshop of January 26th as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker) There were no public comments on agenda items.

6. COMMUNICATIONS - Administrator’s Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Ms. Samples said for clarification that the town sent a $1.3 million payment for beach renourishment; was recently refunded $672,000, and the town will have to have to repay $672,000 plus an additional $22,000, which will make the total investment more than $1.366 million, or thereabouts. Ms. Fellner said that was correct, and that the town would be reimbursed one half of the $692,000.

Mr. Johnson asked if there was any update on the beach renourishment timeline. Ms. Fellner said the US Army Corp of Engineers (USAC) is hoping to let bids in early spring. However, there is a possibility that Reach 1, which is North Myrtle Beach, may be funded. If it is funded, then the USAC will want to bid the Reach 1 and Reach 2 together to save deployment costs. One deployment cost $6 million. There is no assurance from the USAC that this will happen. Mr. Johnson believed the town was on the “short list,” and asked if the priority position was lost. Ms. Fellner said the town was on the “shortest list.” The town continues to have priority and the beaches will be renourished prior to any other Reach being renourished. Ms. Fellner reiterated since deployment cannot begin until the fall season, there is a possibility that the Reaches will be combined to save deployment cost.

Mr. Ott said we had to pay money, but we got it back. Now we have to give it back. Ms. Fellner said Horry County is a very strange area. In the past three years there have been a lot of cost anomalies. It’s not just in the town when projects are bid the bids are often higher than expected. The USAC was very surprised the bid failed; bids were 25-percent higher than expected. Mr. Ott said to clarify the technical description of why council does not give direction to department heads that there are
seven councilmembers and they would be getting directions from all different angles. Town Council gives
the administrator instructions by consensus, then she directs the department directors. Thank you for
your report.

Mr. Stevens recalled that in 2012 the town collected 44 mils of which 39 mils went to the general
fund and 5 mils went to stormwater. After 2012, the stormwater was put into the general fund, but the
millage stayed the same. Ms. Fellner said millage actually went down. Mr. Stevens continued saying that
stormwater was 1 mil and then increased to 2 mils. Ms. Fellner said the millage allocated to stormwater
has remained at 2.

Ms. Courtney asked if there was any additional information regarding bids for the Reach 3
project. Ms. Fellner said no, it all depends on how confident the USAC feels that Reach 1 could be
included in the process. It would be a waste of time to proceed, if the Reaches could be combined. We
should have more information from USAC sometime in mid- to late-March. Mr. Courtney said beach
renourishment is desperately needed on our beach.

Mayor Childs said he and Ms. Fellner had met about this several times. Most everyone
understand when you deal with the Federal Government, its priorities are not the town’s priorities.

Mr. Ott said the millage for stormwater was taken and put into the general fund. That is why we
have the problem we have today. The council did that. Stormwater monies need to be locked and
reserved only for stormwater uses. Putting the stormwater into the general fund was actually a tax
increase, because we didn’t get anything from it. I hope the council today sees that and never lets that
happen again.

7. BUSINESS

A. First Reading Ordinance#17-0837 Section 9-16 Parking Decals & Exemptions,
Councilmember Courtney, Parking Committee Liaison. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt first reading
of Ordinance #17-0837 as presented. Mr. Ott second.

Mr. Courtney said the parking committee recommendations to change the fee for nonresident
decals to $200, and to sell employee 30-day decals for businesses at the pier were discussed at the last
council meeting.

Mr. Johnson supported much of the ordinance, but did have an issue with the increase from $100
to $200 for the nonresident parking decals, because it was extreme. He would be willing to compromise
at $150 for nonresident parking decals. Some say residents on the west side of Highway 17 don’t spend
any money in Surfside Beach, but that is not true.

Mr. Courtney understood Mr. Johnson’s comment, but the price should have been increased
before now. Our beach provide services like sanitation, water, it’s parking for the whole season not just
one day. The amount charged is to provide upkeep, maintenance, and services.

Mr. Johnson said that no parking money is used for beach maintenance.

Ms. Samples supported charging $200 and said from what I understand those who want to buy
the decals don’t think twice about the cost. As a matter of fact, they buy as many as they are allowed to
buy. I don’t have any problem with anything in the ordinance for first reading. She asked if the police
chief had reviewed the ordinance. Ms. Fellner said yes, he did not give any recommendations for
change. Ms. Samples said she was good with the ordinance.
Mr. Ott agreed with the $200 fee. I understand Mr. Johnson’s comments, but every resident in this town pays taxes. We pay a lot more for our parking down here, if you really want to see what we do. It is a great benefit that I have as a resident to have the parking decal.

Mr. Pellegrino said I think this ordinance was well done. There are a lot problems that this solves. I agree with Mr. Johnson; jumping a 100-percent is a little steep all at once. I agree with the rest of the points.

Mayor Childs called for a vote on the motion to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0837. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Appointments

Mr. Johnson called point of order and recused from Business Item B.ii. Business Committee appointment, see attached recusal form.

i. Municipal Judge Chris Arakas. Mr. Ott moved that Judge Chris Arakas be reappointed as the Municipal Judge for the Town of Surfside Beach for a four year term beginning March 21, 2017 and ending March 21, 2021, under the terms of the on-going agreement dated March 26, 2014 with Horry County Government, and as approved by Order of The Supreme Court of South Carolina, dated November 7, 1996. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Business Committee (1 vacancy) - Ms. Heather Sabin, GRITS Realty; Mr. Mikey Pruitt, Pruitt Electric. Mr. Ott moved to appoint Mr. Mikey Pruett to the business committee. Mr. Stevens second. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, Samples and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson recused. MOTION CARRIED.

iii. Construction Board of Appeals (1 vacancy) – Mr. John O’Brien; Mr. Shane Stewart. Mr. Ott moved to increase the membership of the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals from five (5) to seven (7) members, and to appoint both Mr. Shane Stewart and Mr. John O’Brien for terms of four years each. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Childs thanks Ms. Samples for the suggestion to increase the number of members on the construction board of appeals. It worked out well, and we were able to reappoint Mr. Stewart who has served the town well, and also appoint Mr. O’Brien. Everybody is happy. Mayor Childs asked the clerk to advertise the remaining vacancy on the construction board of appeals.

iv. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful (open membership) – Ms. Ashley Stevens Hein. Mr. Ott moved to appoint Ms. Ashley Stevens Hein to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful committee. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Stevens said, “I want to make sure everyone knows that [Ms. Hein] is not my daughter.”

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

Mr. Courtney said he previously requested that council packages be delivered on Thursday. Now, they are being delivered late Friday. I understand the work that is put into it, but I think all of council agrees that our packages need to come a little bit earlier on Thursdays so we can go through them. I know it’s hard on you. Ms. Fellner said there are times when we simply can’t do that. There’s no way that the clerk can even get them out. We do everything as quickly as we can, but sometimes we’re waiting for different items. These packets used to go out the day before the meeting. We try to get
them out as soon as possible. The clerk works right up until the minute. She's the one that puts the
packets together.

Mayor Childs agreed with Ms. Fellner’s comments, and said I’m in there all the time. Ms. Fellner
is constantly in and out of the clerk’s office. The clerk is constantly making changes and things come in
at the last minute. Believe me, there’s nobody sitting around; it’s Friday, let’s get these things out.
They’re working as fast as they can, and sometimes, I think maybe when we do get it early it’s because
everything is cut and dry. But, there’s so many last minute decisions that it’s just one of those things. I
do understand Mr. Courtney’s problem, but also the administrator’s and the clerk’s.

Mr. Ott suggested if it was possible that the director’s reports be sent to councilmembers on
Wednesday, which would allow them to read through them. I spend a lot of time reading the directors
reports. Ms. Fellner said that shouldn’t be a problem, at all.

Ms. Fellner said in response to Mr. Courtney’s comment that when we have the information early
and can send the packages earlier, we absolutely will. The department reports can be sent earlier if that
would help council. Mr. Courtney said thank you.

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

Mr. Phil Doggett, North Dogwood Drive: I know we’ve got to get a new chief, but we’ve got a
great lieutenant, and I highly in any way, shape, or form [believe] that the lieutenant could be made
chief. I think that would be great. Thank you.

Mr. Dodge, 15th Avenue North: We suffered quite a tragedy here in town with the loss of our
police chief. It’s really sad that this council had something to do with it. I’d like to read the definition of
a couple of words. Hypocrite, a person who presents, pretends to have virtues, moral or religious belief,
principles that he or she does not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie their beliefs.
A person who feigns some desirable or publicly approved attitude. And another word, despicable,
deserving to be despised or regarded with distaste or disdain. Contemptible. You know who you are.

Ms. Patti Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: I’d just like to say that we’ve got a number of people
who have been working in Surfside Beach for a long, good many years, and they’ve done us a very good
service. The police chief was one of them, as we all know. To sit ‘em up here in a meeting and grill him
like that, I mean it may not have been meant to be rough, but I think it came across as overbearing, and
I’d just like to say that I don’t think anybody needs to be put through that at the end of a long work day.
I think a lot of times we talk before we think. I think that if we’re going to have people up here
answering questions for 20 minutes or so we should show them some benign respect for their profession,
and not be so rough on them. I’m sad to see him go, but in a way I’m happy for him, because nobody
deserves that. We’ve been doing police mutuality [sic] with the surrounding towns for many, many years
now. I think we all understand why, because up and down 17 you’ve got stuff coming from Florida up
north, and stuff coming from north down. I think we were a little too rough on this man. If our council
is going to continue to that in years to come, shame on them. I don’t think it was called for and I hope
that it never happens again. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Ott: I thank everybody for coming out. It’s been a long day. Thank you.

Mr. Courtney: I’d like to thank everybody for coming out. Again, going back to the parking
decals, I don’t enjoy raising rates. But, we all moved here because it’s the Town of Surfside Beach. It’s
the town we moved in and we all like it. We pay higher taxes here. I understand. I love when people
come and use our beaches and spend their money here. I think it’s great. But, we needed an increase
Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would just like to say that I just came from Columbia a couple of hours ago. I was at the Municipal Association Board of Directors meeting. We spent hours and hours discussing the business license fee. To my dismay, this thing has been going on for two years. The way it has been presented, it went out of committee. Now it’s going to the House, and it’s going to be detrimental to not only the cities and the towns financially, it’s really going to hurt the local mom and pop businesses, because the equation they have proposed is incomprehensible. I mean, it makes no sense at all. It is so detailed, it’s like, you don’t need an attorney to read it, you just need to have somebody…there’s so much involved that it’s; I just pray to God that it doesn’t go through the House. If it does go through the House, I just pray to God that it does not go through the Senate. But, I’m telling you, your taxes are going to increase if this Bill passes in every municipality in the state whether it’s Aynor or Loris or Surfside Beach or Myrtle Beach or North Myrtle Beach or Columbia. There is going to be an extreme impact, and so I would urge you to contact your legislators and find out what is going on. If you would like to email me (MarkJohnson@surfsidebeach.org) I will send you some information about it. I’ll be glad to do that. But, we’re going to have a problem, folks. We are going to have a problem.

Thank you for coming out. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming out tonight. As far as fees in general, and I mentioned this at the workshop yesterday, fees are like a disease. Once you have them, they grow. Once you start accepting them, they multiply. The decals, as Mr. Johnson and I mentioned, I think that was a hefty increase. There’s some other stuff that needed to be done on those changes. But, the stormwater fee that’s a whole new tax. These are fees that we really need to watch out for, because you add in a fee, and another fee, and another fee, and another fee, sooner or later, you’re collecting money and you lose all the incentive for business to come in, business to grow, people to move here, people to buy rental properties here, and it’s just… We just raised the fees on sanitation last year, and it’s always something. But that’s something we really need to watch out for, because that just makes it more expensive to live here, more expensive to do business here, and it’s going to be a fee incentive at some point. As far as our staff, I’d just like to recognize our staff, because the majority of our staff does a very good job with the resources we have and putting everything in place so we can have a great place to live and our tourists can have a great place to visit. So, we always have opportunities, but I’ve been involved in this capacity for three years, and in most cases, staff steps up and does what has to be done so that we can have a successful town, so thank you. Thank you very much for coming. Have a great night.

Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Happy Valentine’s Day, everyone. Hope you all have a lovely evening. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the people who are willing to step up and serve on our committees. We have got some great committees in town and if we can’t get people to volunteer on those committees, then there’s a lot we cannot get done. We really do rely on their recommendations and we’re grateful for their service. Thank you so much. Have a lovely evening.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I want to thank everybody for coming out. I want to follow up with what Mr. Pellegrino said about fees. Fees can always go up, and go up, and go up. Spending by government keeps going, but they don’t ever try to get the deal. I would encourage this council to put it on the number one priority that we start getting the best deals for our money; we start getting bids for every purchase that we make. We are spending way too much money for projects that we should not be spending that type of money for. I spoke about this at the workshop where we spent basically three times what I [as an independent contractor] bid to a private company, the town paid for the same project after it became the responsibility of the town. I guarantee you there’s not a lady out there who buys groceries and does the shopping that doesn’t know what I’m talking about. You’ve got to squeeze your pennies and nickels and make them go as far as they can. We’re spending way too much money and we, as a council, need to cut back. Thank y’all, and have a good evening. I hope all of y’all had a good Valentine’s Day.

Mayor Childs: I would like to say regarding the agenda packages that Ms. Fellner and the clerk work hard and diligently to get them delivered. Nothing was meant by the discussion that you are not going fast enough. I think it’s a lack of understanding of what you do, sometimes. You get this agenda pulled together and I know the clerk works feverishly on it. I go up there all the time, and she’ll tell me, you’ll have to come back, I’m too busy. So, it really does work and I think they’re not holding anything up to trip us up. They’re doing what they can as fast as they can, and I appreciate it very much what you do.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by,

____________________________________
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: February 28, 2017

____________________________________
Robert F. Childs, III, 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

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