Executive Session – 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Ms. Samples moved to enter executive session at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Ott moved to reconvene regular session at 6:15 p.m. Mrs. Samples 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. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:15 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; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris; Interim Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Reverend Jeff Wood from the Oasis of Hope Church gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Ms. Samples moved to adopt the agenda with amendments to allow presentation of Proclamation #17-113 after agenda approval, and to delete Business Items 7. B. and 7. D. Mr. Courtney, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Proclamation #17-113 Lions Club Week, April 9-15, 2017. Mayor Childs presented Proclamation #17-113 to the Lions Club president, Mr. Monty Crossley. There were approximately 20 Lions Club members present. Mr. Crossley thanked Mayor Childs and said the club enjoyed working with the town to provide services to those in need. A copy of the resolution is on file.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. (A) Pier Workshop March 9, 2017 and (B) Executive Session and Regular Meeting March 14, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the March 9, 2017 pier minutes and the March 14, 2017 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard (passed out pictures and displayed pictures during his comments): I’d like to speak about obstructions on the beach. Also like to hand the council some pictures. I originally was going to bring dozens of pictures of people with tents on the beach with nobody underneath then. But, I thought that would be like redundant, so I decided to just to show you two pictures that I had taken on June 12, 2016. One picture is Melody Lane looking south towards Garden City Beach. Looks very inviting, doesn't it? It looks like someplace I’d want to vacation. Someplace that I would want to spend anywhere from $2,000 to $6,000 a week to come to. It’s beautiful. Same time, except it’s in the opposite direction. Melody Lane looking northbound into Surfside Beach. Does that look
inviting? Would you want to spend $6,000 a week for this mess? It looks like a refugee camp. The problem with tents on the beach is the rest of the Grand Strand has decided not to allow them. What's bad about them is people set up the tents around seven a.m. to reserve a spot. Many times they don't come to the beach until hours later. This isn't hearsay. This is I see this every single day. People set up chairs on the perimeter of the tent doubling the area they use. So now that 10 x 10 is now 20 x 20. Try to come down around 11 o'clock and sit with your family. (**) doesn't happen. Many people set up multiple tents together taking vast stretches of beach area. Many people from surrounding communities, Oceanside Village, come to Surfside Beach and park their golf carts in Surfside Beach accesses and along Melody Lane to avail themselves of the allowance of tents on the beach, which the rest of the Grand Strand prohibits. Residents of Surfside Beach [who] would not normally set up a tent now do so to reserve a spot in front of their house or down their block. They actually told me this. I asked them about it. They don't want tents, but their putting up tents because they can't get a spot. Rarely is anyone seen under the tents, but when they are, an umbrella would accommodate them. Children who need to be out of the sun can use an umbrella or small shelter, instead. (Time ended.) If you look at this one picture, there's nobody under a tent. But, oh, here's somebody, they're underneath the umbrella. After only a few uses, they are destroyed by the winds and are discarded and hauled away by the town. Tents block views of the life guards, and I'll finish after. Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Proclamation #17-113 Lions Club Week, April 9-15, 2017. The proclamation was presented after adoption of the agenda. See #3 above.

B. Employee Awards. Mr. Murrey L. Black, 10 years. Mayor Childs asked Sergeant Black and his family to join him at the podium. Sergeant Black was presented with an awards check, service pin, and plaque recognizing his ten years of service in the police department. (Standing Ovation.)

C. Department Reports.

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

Mr. Courtney said thank you, Ms. Ellis. The barbecue festival was great. You did a good job. I wonder how we did financially on the event. Ms. Ellis said I don't have the bill for the temporary poles from the electrician, or the Santee Cooper bill. Right now it stands that it cost $6,000 and we brought in about $4,200. Mr. Courtney asked if there was a report on the beer truck. Ms. Ellis said those numbers were in the report. Sales were $2,207; expenses were $1,575.20 with a net revenue of $451.80. Mr. Courtney said he talked with Ms. Ellis last year about the hula show being held on a night other than Tuesday so that residents that also want to attend council meetings could attend the show. The schedule shows that three of the hula shows are on council meeting days. Ms. Ellis said the lady who does the show already has other commitments and can only do the shows on Tuesday nights. Mr. Courtney asked if the council meetings could be moved. Mayor Childs said a short agenda would allow everyone to attend. (Laughter.) Ms. Fellner said that council could make any adjustment to its meeting dates that it wishes. Mr. Courtney said okay, and said he would get with her to figure that out. Thank you so much; thank you for a great job.

Mayor Childs said thank you, Ms. Ellis, before you leave there, I remember when this BBQ festival first started there was a lot of resistance on the time of year, because it would be so cold out that the musicians' lips would stick to the instruments. (Laughter.) But as you know, and I do, we've had 80 degree weather. I don't think we've ever had a bad barbecue festival day. It's been warm. So, it did work out good. Thank you. It was a great, great event.

ii. Finance. Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.
Ms. King said budget amendments will be presented in April for the general fund, the pier enterprise fund, and the sanitation enterprise fund for FEMA reimbursements and expenses, and in the capital projects fund for the swash and beach renourishment.

Ms. Samples said the general fund is in good shape, and the accommodations tax revenue is up about $200. My question what is $148,000 in the month of February for in fire department expenditures out of hospitality funds. Ms. King said that was for the radios. The department applied for a grant that was denied, so the town had to pay for the radios.

Mr. Courtney asked if we would have matching funds for the beach renourishment. The City of North Myrtle Beach received $10 million. I believe it was because they had matching funds. Ms. King said my understanding is they had a different deal than the town. The town will advance the state's portion and the state will reimburse their portion to us. Ms. Fellner said 65-percent comes from the Federal Government; then the remaining 35-percent is split between the town and the match from the state. So the town's portion is 17.5-percent. Mr. Courtney asked for an explanation why North Myrtle Beach received $10 million. Ms. Fellner said those are emergency funds. If you look at all of Reach 3 and you look at the federal input and the state input, it adds up to that amount. We're getting the same percentage, but the reason they're getting that is because their funds come out of a different source. This is my understanding. We are going to a meeting on this on the fourth, and I intend to ask all of the pertinent questions to determine exactly where it came; was it the Omnibus package; how was this pushed through? We'll know after that meeting, and I will certainly report back to council at the next meeting with regard to that.

iii. Fire. Ms. Fellner presented the written fire report on behalf of Chief Otte, who was at training. A copy of the report is attached hereto.

Mr. Courtney said there was an organizational meeting recently. We discussed resolving this problem with hiring more career firefighters. We had an understanding that we seek out part-time firefighters, is that correct. Ms. Fellner said the town currently has part-time and volunteer firefighters. Ms. Courtney asked how many career firefighters are we running with now on the tour, meaning a shift. Ms. Fellner said we have seven career staff; each shift has two on duty, except during the day shift. There are three on day shifts and it depends if you want to count the Horry County bus, which that brings two more people in. So, that is four or five, depending on whether it's day or night. Mr. Courtney said you understand my concern is if that bus is on an accident call that leaves us with two career firefighters. Is that correct? Ms. Fellner said yes. Mr. Courtney said we had the organization meeting. I did ask you to seek out, and look into the safer grant in hiring off that grant. Ms. Fellner said this is something council would need to direct at the budget workshop, if they want this done. That's why there is an explanation of the percentages so that it gives you the information to understand the financial consequences. Mr. Courtney said I just want to let you know the National Fire Protection Agency, while it's not law, the agency recommends that for career companies under Section 5231 states fire companies whose primary functions are to pump and deliver water to provide basic firefighting, include search and rescue, shall be known as engine companies. These company shall be staffed with four firefighters. Are you familiar with that? Ms. Fellner said I am, and ISO counts two of the Horry County crew as is ours, because they are they are housed in our facility. Mr. Courtney said by not following these recommendations, minimum staffing levels does leave Surfside Beach open for liability. So, I just wish you'd take that into consideration. Ms. Fellner said I hear what you're saying. I know what ISO has said to us regarding this. If council elects that they want to go increase the number of staff in the fire department, then they can so direct me at the budget workshop, and I'll be happy to follow the directives of council. Mr. Courtney asked that Chief Otte respond to the discussions at the organizational meeting at the next council meeting. Ms. Fellner said I will have him do that. Mr. Courtney said I would also like to find out what the processes is for patient care reports for the ambulance runs out of our firehouse whether they are in our firehouse or at the County. Ms. Fellner said those reports would be in the county, but I'd be happy to have him report on them.
Mr. Stevens said in the event that we have a fire at one of the beach homes or high-rise condominiums, or some of the three-story homes in town, my understanding is that it takes two people to go up the stairs with a firehose. Then you have to have somebody run the fire truck. Is that right? Ms. Fellner said I would rather have the fire chief answer these particular questions. Ms. Stevens said please bring him back, because I need some clarification. It sounds as if we might be understaffed and I certainly don't want that to happen. Public safety is the number one priority. Ms. Fellner said yes, sir, and asked if council wanted Chief Otte at the next Council meeting or his regular meeting. Mr. Courtney said the next regular meeting. I do not want to wait another month for this information.

Mr. Ott said if I understand this correctly, what they're saying is if there is a fire, we don't have enough fire fighters working at all times that will be able to enter your home. That's basically what I'm hearing. Ms. Fellner said I would rather let the chief discussed that. He knows how many people come for each type of call. Because we are a volunteer/career unit, we may have six guys sitting out around the table downstairs. He would know what the proportions are 90-percent of the time. I wouldn't know that as well as he. I don't want to give you misinformation. Mr. Ott said if it is a possibility, we need to hire those firefighters as soon as possible.

iv. Planning, Building & Zoning. Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Stevens said I stopped by a business and I have to save they were pleasantly pleased with the planning department. They said the building department found defects in the contractor’s work, so they were able to get the building built exactly the way it should be to meet International Building Codes and South Carolina Building Codes. I want to give the building department a pat on the back for that.

Mr. Courtney asked Ms. Morris if CBO stands for certified building official. Ms. Morris said that’s correct. Mr. Courtney asked if she was a CBO. Ms. Morris said that Mike Farria is the CBO. Mr. Courtney asked where she stood with the CBO certification. Ms. Morris said there are three different tests and exams involved. I took the legal and passed; the management and passed, and I took the technology portion once, and failed. So that's all I'm lacking, but I was told at that time that we had a building official, so it was not necessary. Mr. Courtney asked are you able to take this test at any given time. Ms. Morris said yes, we can. It would take a lot of studying, but yes, absolutely.

Ms. Samples said the beachwear store building that is at the corner of Ocean Boulevard and Surfside Drive was pretty much taken down to the first floor and asked what's happening. Ms. Morris said they are just doing a major renovation. It will still be a beachwear store. The top floor will be storage.

Mr. Johnson said I would just like to thank Ms. Morris again for the comprehensive report that you always give us with pictures. It is very well done.

v. Police. Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Ott said I do some walking at night, and at different times. I don't know what changes you made with rotation, but the Surfside Beach Police Department is always visible. I commend you and your police force for that. No matter which way I go, I see our police force. Thank you very much for that.

Mr. Courtney said I want to thank you so much. I do watch your numbers, as you know. I see we're down with traffic accidents. This is a big concern with me. We're down to 20 a month, but that's pretty good compared to the past months that we've had and last year. I see that traffic stops are up. It's apparent; it's out there. I see it. I'm seeing more blue lights on than I can imagine coming back in town. Tonight's report shows we had 558 traffic stops, and the lights are out there to show it. The summons activity shows 45 in residential and 22 on Highway 17. I urge the community to slow down in our
residential areas. Please slow down. This is where we live. I don’t know if it’s residents or the out-of-
towners that are flying through our community. But as you can see, the police department is doing their 
job. Summonses will be issued. I thank you for your report. It’s fantastic.

Mayor Childs said thank you for the great job you’re doing. Really, nothing but the highest praise. 
Thank you.

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

Ms. Samples said great job, by the way, and I love your report always, but I think it’s because it’s 
always on one page. It’s so much easier to review. I wanted to thank you for the stormwater education 
seminar that you did along with our stormwater committee on March 16th. It was great. I thought it was 
a decent turnout. It was so informative, and I think you got some volunteers for water testing from it. So 
I appreciate the fact that you and the stormwater committee provided that information, and it was very 
informative. So thank you for that. Mr. Adair said thank you. That was a good dovetail from the barbecue 
festival where we had a tent. So we passed out a lot of information at that event; as well. Ms. Samples 
said your knowledge is unmatched, and we’re grateful.

Mr. Johnson said in the past I know that you have had a schedule to reconstruct and add beach 
showers on the crossovers. Since Hurricane Matthew, and I understand you’ve been stretched, but is the 
program still ongoing? Mr. Adair said yes. We try to add one shower every year, either at a new location 
or as a replacement for an old-style shower. This spring we will be installing one at 4th Avenue North. I 
believe that is the location, where we built a larger dune walk over last year. It is closer to the central 
district. We’ve ordered the water meter, and the shower tower has already arrived. That will make eight 
showers on both the north and south sides of town.

Mr. Ott asked if the beach crews continue to fabricate the (**); it’s been on your report for three 
months. It should be done by now. Mr. Adair said we had to break away from that for a while to rebuild 
the 4th Avenue cross over. Mr. Ott said they’ve got to get out of their trucks to do that. I look. I see. You 
take a look at those picnic tables in our parks. I would like you to do that Mr. Adair. That’s all I have to 
say to you. Please take a look at them. I’m not proud of them. You can make faces, but special projects, 
these guys have gotta get out of their trucks, don’t they. They’ve got to come over here and do things. 
Thank you, Mr. Adair.

Mr. Courtney said if you don’t mind, I’d like to know when we start mulching the right-of-way on 
Highway 17, and Surfside Drive. Mr. Adair said over the next few weeks we were going to break away from 
drainage work, and work our way to that. Mr. Courtney said Ocean Boulevard, please, just dress it up a 
little bit. The white lines, the cross over lines, I think it’s due to have them repainted. That is where our 
tourists come, it’s what they see, and is the first impression they get of our town. So you need to look at 
that. The white lines are pretty much faded away on many of those crossovers. Mr. Adair said that would 
be a town project. Thermoplastic was put down several years ago. He will see if they need to be redone. 
Mr. Courtney said I recently asked you about the cross over State Law signage that was damaged during 
Hurricane Matthew. Make sure that you replace the ones that are missing and the ones that are broken 
when you inspect Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Adair said we have about a dozen signs coming in to replace the 
ones that are missing, and a couple of extra signs to keep on hand.

Mr. Stevens said I have to agree with the Mr. Ott. I’ve been down to the Veterans Park. The 
picnic tables look terrible, and need a good pressure wash. They are really filthy. Clean them and also the 
gazebo. Sunday Serenades are going to start soon, and the Memorial Day Service. It would be nice if 
they were cleaned. I don’t want to make Mr. Ott sound like an ogre, but he is telling the truth, and they 
do look bad. Mr. Adair said no question about it. We added several tables last year.
Mayor Childs said Mr. Adair, I want to thank you for everything you do. You do a great job. I get a lot of compliments on your men, so what you need is a hundred more people in your department, and we can get all these projects done.

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

Ms. Fellner said there is one consensus item this evening. Two years ago a welcome center sign was erected on Highway 17 in front of town hall, and it is becoming increasingly problematic. This past week alone, we had over 10 tourists stop in to receive a monster book, golf coupons, popcorn, and a cup of coffee. When they are directed to Piggly Wiggly, they often become angry and ask why we are advertising ourselves as a welcome center. Since we’re not really a welcome center, and it’s sending an unwelcoming message to some of our visitors, I wanted to know if council was okay with the removal of the welcome center sign.

Mr. Stevens asked if we have anything about Surfside Beach that citizens can come in and get. Ms. Fellner said we have our town brochure and a rip off map. We have brochures about stormwater and stuff like that, but tourists are not usually interested in those topics. They want their monster book and coupons, then they have a bad opinion when tourist type items aren’t available.

Mayor Childs said most welcome centers have all the hotel accommodations, and they do offer coffee, and things that we do not have in town hall. I don’t think that was the intent of the welcome center. We were trying to welcome people to the town. I guess everybody has taken it to the extreme. Is it okay to remove that sign?

Mr. Courtney asked how long the sign was up. Ms. Fellner said about two years. Mr. Courtney said just in this one week you had three incidents of popcorn, coffee. Ms. Fellner said we had complaints prior to this. We also had them last season. This year, it’s not even the season yet, and we had ten people complaining last week. When people are unhappy, they are very unhappy. Mr. Courtney said the thing I see is that the business committee came up with a great idea to putting the map out, and coupons for businesses in town. I still think it is a great thing that they’re able to walk in there and pick up that map. When I started visiting Surfside Beach, we had those foldout maps that gave us the all of the town streets, and businesses. I thought it was fantastic, and I don’t see how the sign has any bearing on it. I just believe if it’s the reasoning of just monster books, you can have a couple of monster book laying around. I’ve never gone to welcome center and looked for coffee, because I know that’s not happening, or popcorn. It would be the first one that I know of that would be giving out popcorn in South Carolina. I just don’t think it’s really necessary to take the sign down.

Mr. Ott asked if it would be easier to make it into a welcome center. I know that Ralph Magliette used to go to the library and get their papers and bring them back. He went other places. You have a map. He used to go down to Surfside Realty’s office, and bring those maps up here. Maybe we could assign somebody to do this to actually make it into a welcome center. They’ll get some information from things; menus from restaurants, and stuff. How much money did we waste on it that we want to just throw away now? What was it $10, $15, $20,000; it was a lot of money. Ms. Fellner did not recall the exact amount, but it was less than thousand dollars. Mr. Ott said you need to manage it; that’s all. You can put things in there. You go over to Myrtle Beach and you look at the welcome center, they go out and get things and put them in there, or they asked people to bring them in. Ms. Fellner said Myrtle Beach doesn’t have a welcome center. Only their Chamber of Commerce has welcome center. Mr. Ott said put stuff in there. Why did we even do it then? We don’t have a welcome. Ms. Fellner said staff brought up space at the time this was discussed. If we had additional space, for instance that first office that is now used for the parking function, we could put stacks around the walls. But that office is used. Mr. Ott said my friend Ralph Magliette died and nobody else (**). It’s like the marquee sign; whose job is it to change that. I know you have to pick somebody; the marquee changer of the day. You need to
manage this place. Get somebody and assign them to do these things. Ms. Fellner said the marquee is assigned. Mr. Ott said oh, it is. I know that it's hard to get it done. People like to point fingers. I don't do that; somebody else does it. We can actually use that. We have it in there. It costs us a lot of money for the sign to tear it down and throw it away.

Mr. Johnson said if I may, I hate to say I told you so, but I told you so. Several years ago when this was discussed by a former councilmember, my first thought was where the rest rooms are, because every time that you see a welcome center, at least my thought is let's go into the welcome center and go to the rest room. We are constrained by space in that area to put up adequate brochures, so on and so forth. We just remodeled a remodel to make the counter larger to facilitate the town residents getting their business done. I just think it's a bad idea. I am all for getting rid of the sign, and do what we need to do to make it more town resident friendly.

Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with Mr. Johnson. He stated it well.

Ms. Samples said I agree with Mr. Johnson, as well. We are a government. That building is used for taking care of town business. I think that sign is a misdirection. I can appreciate that people would show up and be disappointed at the very least that it's not what they assume it is. I just to say that on Highway 501 coming into Aynor, the welcome center does offer popcorn and coffee, because I have stopped there many times. So, it does exist in the state of South Carolina. I support removing the sign.

Mayor Childs said Ms. Fellner, you have your four members' consensus to get rid of the welcome center sign.

Mr. Stevens said we have a lot of bids let. Almost every bid says that the bid will be taken in public. When you look for a place in public where it will be held, there's none listed. If it's being held at town hall then that's very intimidating to the public to come in there and know they have to be buzzed behind the door. I think that what we need to do to give the town complete transparency to the citizens so they can understand the bid processing is to hold the bidding where they can walk in just like those two [council chamber entry doors.] Then they could walk in and actually sit down and see the bids. It should not be held in a conference room inside town hall where they have to be buzzed in, which is very intimidating to the average citizen. You can imagine how many people would show up to a Town Council meeting if we had to buzz them in. They wouldn't show up. So my way of looking at this is to be transparent to the citizens who have asked these questions have the bids held in Town Council Chambers. Have the door open so that they can walk in, and you can sit there and do the bids. It makes good sense. Then you're being totally transparent. Right now, I couldn't tell you where the bids are held, and I'm on council. I don't have any idea where you hold them. I think that you should, as the town administrator, make these publicly in a public place where the town citizens can walk in at any time. You're having a bid 10 o'clock. I see for example, you're having an IT bid. It's gonna be April 7 at 3:00 p.m., but I don't know where. Mr. Stevens continued citing each bid and noting that he did not know where the bid opening would be held. I wonder if you have a problem with holding them in Town Council Chambers as it would seem to appease a lot of people who asks these questions. Ms. Fellner said if four councilmembers want the bid openings held in the chambers, it will be done. We have never had a complaint about the location in the past. We go out front; we announced prior to the bid; we ask anyone who is there for 'X' bid opening; we read the bid number; we state what the title is, and asked them to come to come back into the conference room. We've only actually had one person, I think that was for the last bid that failed, one member of the public who came to any of the last ones that I know. Mr. Stevens said they are standing here at this podium week after week asking about these bids and our bid process. But were not having them publicly held. If you're going to do it publicly, let the citizens be able to walk in and out.

Mr. Courtney said I thought this was brought up in the past. I was under the impression that the infrastructure committee was going to be present during any bids and all bids. I thought we had
discussed this, and again, I didn't get a notification of the bid. I'm on the infrastructure committee. I did not get notified that we did have a bid. I thought we discussed that the infrastructure committee would be present at bid openings and that they would be in Town Council Chambers. Ms. Fellner said all of the bid opening dates are on the website, and the bids. We were surprised that no one showed up, very frankly. Mr. Courtney said again I was not notified on the infrastructure committee that the bid was scheduled. I don't necessarily watch everything that's put on the marquee and the calendar, but I guess I will have to watch it from now on. I thought we had a discussion about this about this and we were going to have this all open to the public. This is been a major complaint from the citizens here. Ms. Fellner said well, let me make this suggestion. I was under the impression that people, if they were interested in a bid, would go on the bid page and see when the opening date was. If that is not the case, I can instruct the clerk to inform that committee of every opening and what time it is. Mr. Courtney said that would be good. I would like that. Thank you so much. Ms. Fellner said that's not a problem.

Mr. Johnson said from what I recall from the last conversation we had about this was the administrator mentioned the fact that the bids are open to the public. If they wanted to attend, they could. But I don't think it was set in stone where the opening of the bids would be. Ms. Fellner said it just says they will be opened after received, and they're received at town hall. Therefore, if they're opened at that time, it logically follows, and most bids are written that way, that you open them where they are received. Since before I became involved in this process, bid openings have always been done in the town hall conference room. Mr. Johnson said my logic is the bids are not closed to the public. Public can attend the opening of the bids, and the letting of the bids. Ms. Fellner said yes, absolutely. They have always been open to the public.

Mr. Courtney said again, the issue here is that people want transparency. They want to see the bids, and they want to see them open in Council Chambers. The last bid that was posted does not give the location where the bid was going to be opened. Bids should be opened in Council Chambers, and the infrastructure committee should be notified of this. This is the reason why the infrastructure committee was there to oversee this to make sure that all of the bids are legit. All they're asking for is transparency.

Mr. Pellegrino said can you just ask to see if everyone is in agreement to hold bids in council chambers.

Mayor Childs said I think it would be good idea to just go ahead and from this point on to have bid openings in council chambers, unless she had some objection. Ms. Fellner said no objection; we will put an addendum for every bid that the opening will be held in council chambers. Mayor Childs said I think that Mr. Stevens’ point is well taken; people can come in and out. In future, we'll just do that, and the clerk will notify the infrastructure committee for bid openings regarding that committee. Ms. Herrmann said Mr. Mayor, you said the clerk would notify the infrastructure committee of bids relating to it earlier. I believe Mr. Courtney said he wanted the infrastructure committee to be notified of all bid openings, so I need clarification, please. After a brief discussion, Town Council will be advised of any bid openings.

Mr. Ott said thank you, Ms. Fellner, for the report. This is transparency. I do appreciate you answering these questions. It was a big change in the structure of our council meetings. One question I have is about the 3rd Avenue South swash. Will they be requesting that building there have a gutter put on it, so it doesn't beat away the ground behind this swash? Ms. Fellner said yes, absolutely. Mr. Ott asked if they were ever requested to have a gutter put in before like they did on the west side. Ms. Fellner said not that I know. Mr. Adair was not aware of any such request either. Mr. Ott said okay, again, thank you for your report and answering the town residents' questions.

Mr. Courtney said regarding the 50:50 program that was discontinued a couple years ago, can you give us a reason why again, because I have been getting a lot of calls about that? Ms. Fellner said staffing. We didn't have enough time to complete other things, and so... Mr. Courtney said that was two
years ago, correct, so how do we stand today. Ms. Fellner said we would have to, as I said in my report, have an increase in staff, if we reinstate the program.

Mr. Courtney said I would like to bring up the minutes. Again, this falls under transparency. The people want to know what's going on with the meetings. We had no problem for the last three, four, or five years with the minutes being posted online. My phone is ringing every day with this complaint. I don't see why. I believe that we did get new equipment for the minutes. Ms. Fellner said we did, but it is not that. It's putting the minutes up; it's FTP-ing (file transfer protocol) them up to the server. I mean, we've had a bandwidth problem in town hall for a long time. We made some corrections, and they been working really well for the last three weeks. I'm hoping that from this point forward, we won't have that issue. But, you can't put up what you can't put up. If it times out on you, you've got a way to get it to the remote server. If you don't have the bandwidth, that's a problem, especially when you're talking about some meetings that were two and three hours long. But like I said, I believe we've corrected the problem. We haven't had any issues in the last three weeks. So, if we start noticing that we have problems, then we will address it at that time. We've done everything we can, but bring in another strand of fiber and that's going to be a fight with the county. We had to fight over that one strand that they gave us to start with. Mr. Courtney said I just don't see why we're having so much trouble lately. So, if you can correct the problem, it would be greatly appreciated. I think that is what the public wants.

Mr. Stevens said just to clarify what I've asked for, now that we've asked for the bids to be publicly read in Town Council Chambers... Ms. Fellner said the bids are not read; they are simply opened. Mr. Stevens said opened in Town Council Chambers and the current bids that are on the website will be upgraded to show that. Ms. Fellner said yes, I said I would post an addenda to each bid. Mr. Stevens said thank you very much. I just asked for clarification. Thank you very much.

Mr. Courtney said I asked the clerk to give me a copy of the minutes of the Town Council Vision Meeting Workshop. It is a vision; it's not a vote. I saw several errors on here. I don't believe we concurred on putting sidewalks in on Cedar Drive North and 10th Avenue. On here it shows that we concurred. Can you give me an explanation on that? Ms. Herrmann said several of us listen to the meeting minutes after that question was raised. Several councilmembers said that the sidewalk from 10th Avenue on Cedar Drive by that lake was a safety issue. If you would like to come to my office, I will play that portion of the meeting for you. There was an agreement that it was a safety issue, and that Mr. Adair should include a price for that sidewalk at the budget meeting. It is not approved; it's just that the Council agreed that the budget workshop should include a price for that sidewalk to consider. Nothing that was done at the [vision] meeting is an actual vote. It's all in preparation to make the budget workshop have some meaning. Mr. Courtney said okay, I just want to make that clear that we did agree to have that looked at, but we didn't concur on the price that was given at about $125,000 for a sidewalk. So we had asked Mr. Adair to come back with prices, I believe. Mayor Childs said correct. Ms. Fellner said I think the price is more like $20 or $30 thousand dollars. Ms. Samples said the $125,000 presented at the vision meeting was for decking, benches and all kinds of things that have nothing to do with just a sidewalk. When we asked him about just doing the sidewalk that's when he responded that he would get back to us at the budget meeting with how much a sidewalk would cost. Mr. Courtney said okay, as long as we're clear on that.

Mayor Childs said I would like to remind everybody that when we have our vision meeting, it is just that. It's a vision; a wish list, and probably eight out of ten things we never get, because it's either too expensive, or for what other reason. So the visioning is just strictly when council gets together and each one of us gives our ideas of what we think would be good to put in the budget. Hopefully, it would be approved. But whenever you read the vision minutes, it's what we'd like to see done. It's like a Christmas list. You ask Santa Clause for all these things. Well, you might not get them. (Laughter.)

Mr. Courtney said we posted a GSATS meeting on the marquee for the 17th, and the agenda posted outside Council Chambers that the meeting was canceled. I spoke to Mr. Hoeweler, and he said
they had the meeting. Ms. Fellner said yes, they had the policy meeting. Mr. Courtney asked what happened with that erroneous cancellation. Ms. Herrmann said Mr. Hoeweler sent out an incorrect email saying that the date had been changed, and he corrected that but it was on the next day, which happened to be on Wednesday after the last council meeting. A new agenda was posted showing that that meeting would be held. It was on the town calendar. It was sent out in the email to the subscription list, and was also on the town marquee. So, if someone saw the erroneous cancellation, I apologize, but at that time my understanding was the meeting was cancelled. Mr. Courtney said thank you.

Mr. Ott said maybe that should be also in our notifications for the infrastructure committee. It’s infrastructure. Ms. Herrmann asked if he was talking about GSATS reports. Mr. Ott said yes. Ms. Herrmann said I always send GSATS notices to Town Council that I receive from Mr. Hoeweler, which usually includes an agenda and any supporting documents.

7. BUSINESS

A. First Reading Ordinance #17-0838 to amend Section 17-600 through 17-657, Chapter 17, Sign Ordinance, Director Morris.

Mr. Ott moved to approve the Ordinance #17-0838 to amend Sections 17-600 through 17-657, the sign ordinance. Mr. Courtney second. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. The business committee and the planning commission recommend that the ordinance be approved as presented.

Mr. Ott said can I request a summary of how this new ordinance is being perceived by our business community in six months and 12 months. Ms. Morris said absolutely. Mr. Ott said then we can consider whether there are any complaints.

Ms. Samples said a big thank you to you, Ms. Morris, and the business committee, and the planning commission for bringing this sign ordinance to completion. I’ve talked to a number of businesses in the area, and they’re very happy about it. Thank you for your efforts. I appreciate it.

Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for going through this process. I was very happy to see it go from 33 to 10 or 11 pages. It is much simplified; much better for the business community, and hopefully it will lead to improvements in the town. So thank you.

Mr. Stevens said I want to thank Ms. Morris for job she's done on this. She's worked with the business committee, and with planning and zoning. She took what was a monstrosity of an ordinance and slimmed it down. It's so easy to read now. Great job.

Mr. Courtney said I'd like to thank Ms. Morris, and the business committee for all their hard work they did on this. They put a lot into it, and did a great job. Well done. Thank you.

Mayor Childs, said I also want to echo Mr. Courtney's comments. It seems like all we've heard is signs, signs, and more signs. You've done a good job. You certainly narrowed it down. From what I understand, everybody's agreed it's easy to read, easy to understand, and we appreciate what you and the business committee have done. They work so hard on this.

Mr. Johnson said I am not one to nitpick. I'm sure that there were some cross reference issues here, but on page 14 of 33 and on page 15 of 33, there were some words or some lines of words that are missing. Could you get those specific two pages back to us before the second reading? Ms. Morris said absolutely, I’m sorry. Thank you. I will definitely get that to you.

All voted in favor of first reading of Ordinance #17-0838 regarding Chapter 17, Signs. MOTION
CARRIED.

B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0840 to amend §17-222 Powers of the Board (BZA) to Grant a Variance Regarding Protected, Specimen, and Landmark Trees, Director Morris. This ordinance deferred until after the April 18th workshop to discuss the tree ordinance. See Agenda Approval, item 3 above.

C. First Reading Ordinance #17-0841 to amend Chapter 13, Fees, Director Morris. This ordinance deferred until after the April 18th workshop to discuss the tree ordinance. See Agenda Approval, item 3 above.

D. Bid Award for Street Paving, Director Adair. Mr. Adair presented the decision paper and bids, copies of which are on file.

Ms. Samples said $600,000 was approved and appropriated in the budget, correct? Mr. Adair said yes. Ms. Samples asked if the $90,000 from Horry County was from vehicle registration fees. Mr. Adair said yes. Ms. Samples asked if a budget amendment would be presented. Mr. Adair indicated yes.

Mr. Ott asked why the $440,000 CTC Funds were shown as ‘anticipated.’ Mr. Adair said those funds are guaranteed as long as the town spends the money up front and provide receipts for reimbursement.

Ms. Samples moved to approve the bid award for street paving [in the amount of $614,495.45 to Coastal Asphalt, LLC the lowest bidder]. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

E. Motions and/or directions to the Town Administrator from Executive Session. Mayor Childs said there were no motions or directions to the administrator from execution session.

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

Mr. Courtney said I’d like to bring for council’s discussion the obstructions on the beach as Mr. Kohlmann stated. We do allow tents on our beach, but they have become a problem. It’s a safety issue. We’ve had numerous incidents where our fire department has not been able to access injured people on the beach. We had our fire department request a gator this past vision meeting, and unfortunately we had to deny him, because we don’t have the access to get to the beach to go from one end to the other end. A lot of municipalities have banned tents. I’m not talking about umbrellas, baby tents; I’m talking about these huge tents. I think I’m one of the few councilmembers that uses the beach, and if you go out there, especially during the peak season at mean high tide, you can’t even walk on the beach. It’s just out of control at this point. We’ve got people from Ocean Lakes and Oceanside Village who are taking advantage of our beach. They’re coming down and setting up these tents, and it’s becoming hazardous for police and fire to our patrol our beach. The only way you can see patrol with the Gators is on the low tide. Come a mean high tide, you can’t access it. It’s become a real nuisance. Again, it’s become a real safety problem. I just don’t want to see us have an incident where we have someone where they can’t get help or they can’t get assistance from a fire or police.

Mr. Ott said actually seeing the tents on the beach there’s no advantage at all for anybody.

Mr. Stevens said basically, this is pretty simple. We have people coming down here from out of town that have rented a $6,000 a week house. Then we have the people from Ocean Lakes and Garden City coming over and setting up their tents real early in the morning. I’ve been down there and actually watched them set up their tents almost at daylight. Then after they set them up, they leave and go somewhere. Then they come back later. Meanwhile, the guy who’s rented the $6,000 a week house on the oceanfront has no place to put his things. He’s paying a-tax; he’s paying our bills. So, I don’t see any
benefit for these tents. They are coming from Ocean Lakes, and Oceanside Village in Garden City and they're just cluttering up our beach. Even the residents can't go down there, because of the tents. These tents are the same size as the tents we use for the town festivals; 10 x 10 or 12 x 12 tents. They take up a lot of room. You can do the same thing with an umbrella. Plenty of my guests are very happy with an umbrella. Tents have been banned everywhere else from Pawleys Island all the way to Cherry Grove. I don't see any benefit for us whatsoever.

Mr. Pellegrino said I may be the oddball, but I'll state my opinion, anyway. I think it is good that the rest of the beach did eliminate tents, because now are the only ones who allow tents. That's what we like to call a competitive advantage that brings people to our beach. A lot of these people renting beach houses do want to use tents. I do use the beach. I have four kids, so I'm at the beach very often. I run on the beach, and I just don't see the major problem with it. Obviously, our beach is smaller. We are in need of beach renourishment. But for the majority of time, mid-tide to low tide, I just don't see an issue.

I still support tents on the beach.

Ms. Samples said I think that talking about tents on the beach is a good thing, but I think we're talking about it at the wrong time. We're almost to April 1st. I think it would be unfair to our businesses, especially those along the beach, to implement a ban on tents when a lot of our rental companies have already produced their brochures. All their marketing materials are out and about. If we prohibit tents, it's really going to upset a lot of tourists who are coming into town, specifically to Surfside so they can have tents. So I think the timing of this is bad. Again, if you want to talk about it, I'd rather talk about it in September when we will give our businesses an appropriate amount of time to produce their brochures and their information to let the people know that we could possibly be changing the rules of tents on the beach. I do understand why Myrtle Beach did it, and why North Myrtle Beach, did it. They have high-rises, they're high density. We are not. We don't have that. So it did make us unique, and we did have a competitive advantage. Again, I'm open to talking about, especially when you talk to our beach services people who may have something to say about it. But at the moment, again I think it's an inopportune time, and I think if we're going to talk about it seriously, we need to talk about it come September.

Mr. Ott said I would like to add that there is no competition. If they don't put them here, there's nowhere else to go. To have competition, you have to be able to go somewhere else. There's no other place on the Grand Strand where you can put a tent. There is no real advantage for the people of this town.

Mr. Courtney said it's not about timing. It's not about tourism. When you watch people come into our state, coming off the plane, they don't come with tents. They come with small baby umbrellas and stuff they need to use the beaches. Again, with a mean high tide, we have no beach left due to no beach renourishment. We shouldn't have to wait till we have a casualty on the beach. At this point, we had our fire chief ask us for a Gator to use on the beach. We had to deny it, because we can't even get down the beach. If you ever come down to the south end of the beach on 13th to 16th Avenues South on a mean high tide, you're lucky if you have enough room to put your chair up. I watch my kids surfing, and I watch these people come to set their tents up at 7:00 a.m. They put their chairs on the outside of the tent, and then come back after they go out to have breakfast, lunch, and come back at one afternoon. Then they set up for the afternoon. It's not right to the tourists that come here. I watch families come using the walkovers; you know that they're tourists. They're carrying the new toys for the kids. There's is no room to sit. These huge tents are there. This is just not the place for it. There is a reason why North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach banned them. We've got to take into consideration the safety of our people and the safety of our tourists. If we have an incident on the beach, and someone can't get medical help, or they can't get police services, it can be a liability issue. It's going to be on us.

Mr. Johnson said I agree with Councilmembers Samples and Pellegrino. The time is not in late March to discuss tents on the beach; it's not the time in July to discuss tents on the beach. It's in the off-season when we need to discuss tents on the beach, and whether you like it or not, we do have
regulations, whether they are enforced or not. We have regulations to enforce the restrictions of tents on the beach, whether that is connecting two tents together, or moving them out of the line of sight of the lifeguards. We can go on and on and on discussing tents on the beach, but I think it would be detrimental at this point to do away with tents on the beach for the 2017 season. Yes, we have a narrow beach right now. No fault of our own. Hopefully, we will have a wider beach in 2018. That's all up to the federal government; it is not up to us. We are at their hands, and so at this point, I'm not in favor of banning tents on the beach.

Mayor Childs said well, I just have one thing to say. My own experience, I rode with one of our beach patrols here last year, and I can assure you it was very difficult getting from one end of the beach to the other, especially when the tide was up. It was almost impossible. We had to drive almost up on the dunes just to get around, so there is a lot to be said about those issues like that. Being those other municipalities have banned tents, I'm sure a lot more to it than probably we know. So I think it is something that should be looked into thoroughly.

Mr. Ott and Mr. Stevens asked if this matter could be brought back. Ms. Herrmann asked how council wanted the ordinance changed. Mayor Childs said to eliminate tents as there were four members in favor of eliminating tents. Ms. Fellner asked if tents would just be prohibited during the summer season. Mayor Childs said bring an ordinance for first reading to eliminate tents.

B. Beach Services, Councilmember Courtney. Mr. Courtney said I wanted to bring beach services under discussion. As you know we have lifeguards services. The contract is to end this April, am I correct. Ms. Fellner said it is up in 2020. Mayor Childs said I understood it to be 2020. I believe you told us that a while back. Mr. Courtney asked when the contract renewed. Ms. Fellner responded from the audience (**). Mr. Courtney said would you bring that contract forward, please, and asked if it renewed by council vote. Ms. Fellner said council always votes on the franchisee. Mr. Courtney said according to the contract, he is supposed to have lifeguards, 10 stationary and one roving, is that correct. Ms. Fellner said I don't have the contact in front of me. Mr. Courtney said would you bring that back, so we can look at the contract, because I think the stemming from the problems that we've discussed up here on the dais, the issue is mainly does Beach Services have the number of lifeguards staffing the beach properly, and with the amount lifeguards that should be on there. Ms. Fellner suggested instead of bringing this back to council as a whole that a subcommittee of council, possibly the infrastructure committee, meet with the franchise provided to discuss all the related issues, and then council can determine whether to bring this to council as a whole. Mr. Courtney said that would be great.

Mr. Ott said I agree with the administrator that’s what we should do. I looked at the franchise agreement, and it's very well written, but it needs to be applied. That is basically all we need to do. Mayor Childs asked Ms. Fellner to set up a date. Ms. Fellner said she would.

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

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I just had some answers from some of the council people. One of them said this wasn’t a problem. See this folks (held up picture) that's a serious problem. Also note that that councilperson rents a beach house. I also rent my beach house. Fourteen years, never once did anyone ever ask me can we put up tents the beach? They ask about the size of the pool; they ask about how far of a walk it was. They asked if they had a crockpot or a pizza slicer, but they never asked about tents on beach. They came to the beach, they're gonna enjoy it. Another councilperson said oh, brochures are out. It's too late to do it. Show me a brochure that says come to Surfside. Rent here because you can put a tent on the beach. You can put them in Garden City, can't put them in North Myrtle Beach. It doesn't exist. So forget the brochure angle. It's March folks. It's the off-season, folks. It's not the end of May. People rented their houses a long time ago. They're not [going to decide] not to come here because we can't have tents. To say that will lose the money, show me. Show me if Myrtle Beach lost money by not having tents. Show me Garden City they lost money, because they couldn’t
Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: Commenting on the tents on the beach, when this first

have tents. Show me Pawleys Island; show me Cherry Grove; show me [Little River.] Show me that those
places lost money. They didn’t. The whole Grand Strand is booming. So don’t come up with these silly
excuses. This is dangerous, folks. This is this looks terrible. We are being used and abused by the whole
community here. People come flocking here from other communities. Not the tourists. Think about it,

$6,000 and you can’t get a place to sit on the beach and this is a big beach. This is where the high tide
is. This is high tide (displaying picture). (**) There are no dunes here. The high tide is behind those
dunes. We have no beach. Now, the north end might have a big beach. Probably two or three times the
size. If the folks on the north end want to have tents, go right ahead. You could put up like the surf
area; make a tent area. You know what, you have people out the door looking to string you all up, if you
want to do that. Come on folks, I mean there’s so many reasons not to have them. (**) I continue it some
more. The emergency responders, Mr. Courtney did that. (**) tents take up too much room, and they
make the beach more crowded than it should be, which I stated why people don’t want to come here.

Because it’s just too crowded. If we ban tents like the rest of the Grand Strand, the beach concession can
put out some more umbrellas, and maybe they’ll make a couple of dollars more. Maybe they will give us
some more lifeguards. Maybe, because we don’t have lifeguards where they should be. You have a
lifeguard at 13th South, and you don’t have another lifeguard until Garden City. You think that’s enough
lifeguards, folks? I don’t. That’s what’s important. Not a couple of tents. When I bring my kids to the
beach, I don’t want him to get burned, I’ll stick him under an umbrella. But I sure don’t want him to die
in the surf. Thank you.

Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: I wanted to clarify some things about the Myrtle swash. I
read the administrator’s response, and I’m sorry, but I have totally different figures than what she came
up with. I have the town’s own purchase orders in the amount of $154,750 for Tim’s Construction. Not
the $142,000 that she states in her rebuttal, and $19,200 to DDC Engineers, and that’s a total of
$173,950. Well, that my councilmembers, is $7000 higher than you approved on this lot. So you
approved a total amount of $166,750 after being told time and time again that engineering was included.
At least three times Ms. Fellner assured council that the engineering price was in the original quote of
$155,000. So why was a purchase [sic] order ever written to DDC? We paid Tim’s Construction in full, but
the riprap as shown on the bid, was installed short 170 feet. The administrator now says that the bid
council voted on is fallacious, so council voted for bogus project to begin with. Why? When can we
expect our $5,000 overpayment check, not a credit? It’s interesting to note there was a previous town
purchase order issued to MontCo for only $91,651; $63,000 less than we ended up paying. If the latest
story is correct about Tim’s contract only being $142,000, then why did we write him a purchase order
for $154,750 in October before the job started? Lastly, why can’t our engineer measure a ditch correctly,
especially since he had one on 3rd Avenue South to go by? This ditch, Myrtle swash, has changed from
160 feet to 200 feet and now evidently it grew another 10 feet, because now it’s 210 feet. So I’m going
to give you all a copy of all of the purchase orders that were written on this job. I’m going to give you
the original MontCo bid. I’m gonna give you the purchase order we wrote to run to MontCo originally for
$91,000. On that MontCo bid, you will see that we were to have riprap 4 feet tall, the whole length of the
project. That’s what you voted on. Not what we have now. The same games are being done on your road
paving project you just voted on. Oh, we got a bid. It was only $14,000 over the $600,000 budget.
Where’s the engineering? Where’s DDC’s cost in that? You didn’t really have a budget number, because
you never knew what the engineering was going to cost. Personally, I would never buy a car without the
wheels. I want to know the cost of my project. Since we do not have an engineer on staff that we pay
full-time, we have to contract our engineering out. That is a cost to this town. We can’t just keep
ignoring the engineering is stuck in the budget somewhere. I’m sure that a lot of you don’t even realize
that our underground wiring projects the engineering cost on that was over $100,000 apiece. You never
knew it. Past councilmembers that I talked to never knew it. Transparency is key. You cannot keep
voting for things that you only have pieces of. You need to know all of your costs before you vote on a
project. Your road paving project budget is wrong. It does not have your engineering cost in there. How
much is it? How much over budget are we already? Why can’t we ever get an answer?

Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: Commenting on the tents on the beach, when this first
came up, I believe the mayor at the time said we'd do it for a couple years, and see how it affected
everybody, and then maybe we fall in line with everyone else. So maybe we've had those couple of
years, and there do seem to be some issues. As far as timing is concerned, I don't know that I would
wait until the fall to do that. Might be smart start doing some research, and talking some people now. If
the tree ordinance is any indication, it's gonna take you guys forever to get this done. Don't wait until
fall. These businesses, the people, and real estate people, really do need a lot of headroom to do what
they need to do as far as their people for next years. So, don't wait that long. Secondly, I'm really
irritated, and I'm really frustrated with the landscaping and tree ordinance and the way it's been handled.
This workshop on the 18th will be the third workshop. It will be the second workshop that Town Council
holds on it. We've only had public [hearing] on this once. We've had council at all of the workshops; at all
of the planning and zoning meetings; at least four of you. Sometimes all at the same time have been
sitting in the back row to listen to all the discussion. We've had amazing people from the community who
have come up. They been there in person. They sent letters. They sent us emails. They have been
marvelous as far as their input is concerned. They have been so patient as we work through things. At
the first workshop, there was a list of dates that we were given [for] commission meetings. I believe Ms.
Morris was sick once. She was a workshop once, but there was no indication that the others were
canceled, because we had national elections, local elections, local runoffs, we have holidays, kind of like
the hula show. I mean there's things that we can control. We can't suggest they reschedule those
holidays or those elections so that we can have planning and zoning meetings in our usual place at the
usual time. You know, we're doing our job. We've even have extra meetings, but it is just really
frustrating. Everything is in place, and we still do not have an ordinance. There was even a comment that
asked can we have a limit on the amount of time that we can use before we take it away. So we rushed;
we get it done. We spend extra time on it (**). It's frustrating. I don't even know how many people we
have in Surfside. But, I can promise you, if we work, let's say I think we've already been working on this
for more than a decade from the original set up; come on, if we had another 20 years, we would not
please everybody in this town. We have walked as close to that line as we can, considering the economy,
ecology, and the quality of life of the people in this town. It's not gonna make any difference. We're still
gonna have the workshop. I'm not the chairman of the committee. I'm just a member. I told you before
I'm nobody. I'm just a mouth. But it is just really frustrating to put in as much time, and as much worry,
and trying to please as many people as we can, and still stay legal, and doing the job we were supposed
to do, which is to do the very best we can with people of Surfside. It's just really frustrating. Oh, and one
other thing, it is possible to request a job of an employee or to critique a job that's already been done
without being rude. That bothers me. (Applause.)

Mr. Ron Mask, 10th Avenue North: I will be brief, because like everybody else, it's been a long
[meeting.] I just didn't want to get away without saying that the tents on the beach for those of us who
are residents, and we have friends that vacation here, have been getting worse ever since we started
becoming known as the place that allows them. I think that with the shortage that we got a beach space
this year, not only the safety problems, but the pleasure of all the people who come, the residents and
the visitors is going to be so much worse this year that we are actually going to drive people away from
this town rather than attract them, if we use those tents to crowd up our beach this year. I do think it's
time to act. I don't think that anybody comes here because they can put up a tent. They might like it, but
they won't change their mind. My opinion. Thank you.

Ms. Mary Maruca, 7th Avenue South: I'm here to talk about the Myrtle swash. Actually, the south
side swash of the Myrtle swash. We been hearing a lot about the north side and the cost. The south side,
the town is taking the stand that the owners of the property along the south side should be responsible
for their side of the Myrtle swash. It is an order of contention as to actually owns that portion of it. The
owners of Ned's Cove have hired an attorney. They're gone back and forth with the town. The town
attorney; it took the town attorney a couple months to get back to them. He gave them a letter, the
attorney is Gene Connell, gave Gene Connell a letter stating we found different from what you state.
Nothing else. Gene had to write back and say can you please provide me with what you're talking about.
I mean, he finally got it. Still, it's still a gray area; a lot of gray areas, but even still that, you know,
Mr. Phil Murdoch, South Ocean Boulevard: For the last nine years my wife and I have had the privilege of living on South Ocean Boulevard on the ocean. The last several councils honored me by appointing me to accommodations tax committee. I think there about two tours of duty. After that I’ve also been privileged to serve on zoning appeals, and served a little bit with Mr. Ott. The last few years as well, I’ve also worked my partner, Danny Oslin, Oslin Construction, and we mostly build and sell new homes in Surfside. It’s in that capacity that we interact, in addition, Mr. Oslin is also on the [construction] board [of appeals]. So we have a tremendous amount of interaction with personnel in building, codes and zoning. I wanted to pass along some insight just in our interactions with that, because I think it’s easy for you sometimes to only hear negative things. As a mostly retired attorney, I have a vocational disdain for hearsay. So I’m only going to speak to the things that that I have first-hand experience with.

Director Morris in my experience has been extremely professional. I’ve never seen her operate in anything I would call near a capricious fashion. Inspector [Farria], Mr. Oslin will tell you that inspector [Farria] will show up with a bag lunch and he’ll make a day of the inspection. I think, depending on the time of day, he might even bring a sleeping bag. But, I make it a point of pride when I sell a house, because I say it’s inspector [Farria] approved. For somebody who grew up with a father who was a developer and a builder for 40 years, I have seen inspections before on commercial buildings where the inspector rolled up and left the truck on, and the door open, and walked in and looked around for about 2 1/2 seconds, and said it looks fantastic and wrote up the report and said you’re passed. So somewhere in the middle maybe is the best solution, but I really would pass along on behalf of myself and my partner Mr. Oslin that we have had tremendous success working in this town and we enjoy working with the personnel, and even though we don’t always agree with what they say, and we do have disagreements, at no point do we ever feel like that we’re dealt with any fashion that, again, is capricious. We feel like that the people that we’re dealing with are doing their very best to do their jobs as they understand them. So I commend their work; I appreciate their hard work, and at the same time, again for inspector [Farria], if he could speed it up just a little bit, I’d say that that would be the only constructive criticism I might add. That and the fact that we are sometimes short staffed, because they there’s only one Ms. Morris; there is only one inspector [Farria], and if those guys aren’t in that can be a problem. But that’s not their problem, that’s the fact that we’re a little short staffed in a very small town. So, again, I just wanted to pass that along so that that is of the record. Thank you. (Applause)

Ms. Sherry Hortle, 1st Avenue North: I’m here because I wanted to refute some of the comments that the administrator made regarding what I had spoke [sic] about at the last meeting. She talked about where I met with her in regards to the vacancy for police chief. I did meet with her. However, I met with her on the Friday right after Chief Keziah resigned. Not after the 17th of February as she stated where she had announced Interim Chief Hofmann’s appointment. So I did want to clarify that, and yes, I did offer to give her my boyfriend’s resume. He is a 35 year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department and presently a chief of police. It’s not that he needs the job, because he has quite a lucrative pension with the Philadelphia Police Department and sheriff’s department, too, I should add. Comes with a wealth of experience, and I thought I was doing her a favor, and allowing her an opportunity to see firsthand where she could go, if she was serious about looking for a police chief from the outside. In that conversation, I kind of got the idea that she was not serious about looking for someone, because some of the things that she said to me, and some of her actions greatly contradicted each other. She said to me one comment was every lieutenant believes he can be chief. Now I understood that. I thought it was a little
spent hours and weeks looking over applications, which I know that you will do, and very open to putting Hofmann, stepping in and do what you doing. I appreciate the process. I look forward to watching you all would've called you out of order way beforehand. But that's just me. I appreciate what you do, Chief

Fredericks left; 250, and I will tell you, because I sat on that committee. We read those things for weeks. I thought we needed somebody from outside here, and raise your children and retire here, it's a great place to be, and the process, I can assure you, things that shocked me, but when you live here and you understand where you live and you chose to live here, and raise your children and retire here, it's a great place to be, and the process, I can assure you, the process for the Chief will be the process for the chief; 250 people applied for that job when Chief

Hortle continued anyway saying there was one other thing I do need to talk about this, because this was totally wrong, and this was something that I talked about the last time. Mayor Childs gaveled Ms. Hortle out of order and asked her to sit down. Ms. Hortle continued saying it was the issue of the $9,999 check. Ms. Samples called point of order, please as the speaker's time had ended. Ms. Hortle continued saying I'm sorry, but I pay my taxes, and I believe that I have paid for my right to stand up here make a comment. Ms. Samples said Mr. Mayor we have rules; point of order. Ms. Hortle continued saying that flag on the wall ensures my right to speak. Mayor Childs said please, ma'am, please have a seat. Ms. Hortle continued arguing with Mayor Childs. Sergeant Prisco approached the podium and asked Ms. Hortle if she would like to sit down or be escorted out. After continuing to speak, Ms. Hortle finally sat down. Ms. Hortle's comments after the point of order were excluded from the record.

Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I was not going to speak tonight. I'm a little rusty being gone for a few years, but I'm back. Sorry everybody. I wasn't gonna speak, but, I'm sorry that you got up and did that. If I did that, my husband when he applied for the chief's job, I think he'd never speak to me again. That's my opinion. Like you said, that's why we have it, but I think it was humiliating, because when you read the codes of the town, the town administrator might need him to do something like an event; like a parade; like the turkey trot. You're reading into things that aren't even there. It upset me that you speak like that. I don't know how long you've lived here, but when I came there was a lot of things that shocked me, but when you live here and you understand where you live and you chose to live here, and raise your children and retire here, it's a great place to be, and the process, I can assure you, the process for the Chief will be the process for the chief; 250 people applied for that job when Chief

Fredericks left; 250, and I will tell you, because I sat on that committee. We read those things for weeks. We went through those applications with a fine tooth comb. I thought we needed somebody from outside the Town of Surfside Beach to run the town. That's what I thought, but I was wrong, because I made the motion to have Rodney Keziah. I'm proud of that. He did a dam good job, and yes, he was a lieutenant, and I hope that every lieutenant wants to be a chief. I hope every cop wants to be a chief. That's a wonderful thing to happen. So, before you say some things, because I think that was real personal, I would've called you out of order way beforehand. But that's just me. I appreciate what you do, Chief

Hofmann, stepping in and do what you doing. I appreciate the process. I look forward to watching you all spent hours and weeks looking over applications, which I know that you will do, and very open to putting
it onto the International Chief of Police Association, putting it out to job listings, and all kinds of things.

You don't need to hire somebody to do that. That's why we hired them to do that. On the other note, I'm
going to let that one go, because I don't want to like; on the safety of the tents. It is an issue. I know
when we moved here, we moved to an R3. I live in the rental area. I get it, I moved where it's busy. I
enjoy those people, actually. But I just want you think of it little different way. Y'all know where my
house is. Right now they're building four seven bedroom homes right next to me, which is a good thing
for real estate. They're going to be building four more up the block, and possibly two more. So you guys
can do the math. That's a couple hundred more people on the beach every single day all summer long.
And if you go down there, it's really not what you think. It's Oceanside Village, because I ask people
where you are from. Why do you come here, and they really tell you. They come to our beach, because
they can put their tents. There really isn't any space down there, and it is a safety issue, because the
next lifeguard is not really Garden City, it's from 13th Avenue South to One Ocean Place [on the other
side of Oceanside Village]. I know we all have cell phones, but when people are in an emergency
situation, the difference between having a lifeguard there, and just yelling and having them there and
getting on the phone and calling 9-1-1, which everybody doesn't get bounced up to the County and then
they have to figure out you're in Surfside Beach, it takes a lot of time. So I just would like you all to really
consider that before you just say that you want the tents on the beach. There's one out there today. I
took a picture of it, if you want to see it. It's a tent with chairs all around it and not a person in sight. So
it's already starting and it's March. Thank you all, again.

Mr. Bill Doggett, Dogwood Drive: Sidewalks need fixing. (***) it really is. Some places all they
need to do is ground the concrete down a little bit, because it sticks up. I learned the hard way. But, I
would like say one thing. We've got one of the best police groups that I've ever dealt with in my life, and
I just don't understand all the 'to do' we're having our police chief. We've got one right there, and that's
what we need. Thank you a lot.

Ms. Kathy Andreas, 14th Avenue North and 8th Avenue South: I'm back and forth. Soon to be
8th Avenue South, I guess. I just want to make a comment about the welcome sign. I think it's nice to
believe in Santa Claus. I think in 50 or 100 years from now, maybe that might work. We could have a
really nice big welcome center. And maybe at Dogwood North off the corner of 16th. There would be two
pieces of property; there would have to be bought by the town. But that's sort of not in my future. So I
think it's nice that Surfside has these beautiful signs at our north side and our south side that say
welcome to Surfside. I think they will find us. I think it would be a little bit overworking our wonderful
town right here. I know when I go in to get maybe a permit for something, when I had rental property,
t here were lots of people waiting in line. Our people work so hard there. Trying to run a welcome center
out of that is just a little bit too much. It's trying to make too much; I mean it just can't be. We really do
need a big welcome center. So, in the meantime, in those next 50 or 100 years, let's just use the North
sign and the south sign that say welcome to Surfside.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Samples: Thank you to staff for being here so late. We really appreciate it a lot. Thank you
for your comments. Everyone have a lovely evening.

Mr. Stevens: Thanks everybody for coming out, number one. It shows the citizens come out and
they speak and it shows that you care about the town. I want to thank Mr. Kohlmann for giving us a real
good illustration of tents on the beach. Really, the picture speaks a thousand words. Ms. Watson just
comes up with some brilliant stuff every time she comes up here. That just amazes me. You should run
for office. Ms. Lowery, we have 21 days for council to get on this tree ordinance, and work it out. I think
April 18th. Mr. Murdoch, I appreciate what you just said about the building department. I've had my ups
and downs with the building department, but I found out that if you're smart, if you're a smart citizen,
and you walk in that office, and you ask them what are the rules. Tell me how to play by the rules, and
tell me what I've got to do, you won't have any problems with 'em. Believe me, I appreciate the building
Mr. Ott: I'd like to show the town's appreciation for the Lions Club. We do have the Lions Club Week the 9th to the 15th. They do a lot of really good things for the community, and it is great to have them here. As for the Myrtle swash, at that time I was told that it was an emergency, and there was only one bid, and that's all. I don't think I would've bought into that is as easily today as I did at that time. As for we have a professional that comes out and inspects the work done in your home. What a terrific thing.
that is. Most people hire people to do that work for them and they hope it's being done correctly. They
hope all these wires are connected right, and the plumbing is done, and they hope that is actually up to
code. But now we have, the Town of Surfside Beach supplies a professional that’s been trained that
comes to your house and looks at it. Sometimes he might say your work is done wrong, and don't be
upset, because you need to have it done correctly, and you need somebody with that professionalism
that can tell you this isn't right. I appreciate those people that do that. Thank you for coming out. Thank
you staff for all the work that they do. Thank you Ms. Fellner. I don't always agree with her, but thank
you. Have a great night.

Mr. Courtney: I would like to thank all of you for coming out. I’d like to thank staff for all the
good work they do. I do really appreciate the staff for the work they do around town. As far as the tent
ordinance, there is no good time to pass an ordinance. It’s Christmas, it’s Easter, it’s the shoulder season,
its summer, it’s spring, it’s winter. It’s a tough job. It takes time, and we'll put it together and we'll make
sure it's done right, and we'll bring it back to council. That’s all I have to say. Thank you so much for
being out here.  God bless. Have a good evening.

Mayor Childs: I’ll make this really quick, because it is late. Ms. Lowery, I want to thank you and
the planning commission for everything. People don't realize you're not getting paid. You're putting a lot
of hours in free. There's a couple members of the planning commission here tonight, and I hope council
doesn't get in and rework in a short hour or two everything that you put so much time and effort into.
Between the signs and the trees, I don't know which one I hear the most. You've done a good job on
what you done. I want to thank the staff for everything they do. Ms. Fellner, people don't realize the
hours that you put in and the amount of work that you do. I want thank you very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Courtney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Mr;
Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by,

Approved: April 11, 2017
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

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

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.