CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the workshop to order at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino, and Samples were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner and Town Clerk Herrmann.

Ms. Fellner presented the same PowerPoint that was given at the March 9th workshop, a copy of which is on file. She explained that there has been no status update since that time with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). We are still working through negotiations. I’m hopeful that we might come to a resolution sometime in June. We have an RFP (request for proposals) that’s published on our website for professional engineering design and construction supervision services. The close date for that is April 13th. FEMA will fund 75-percent of what they determine to be the existing facility. This could be a repair of the entire existing structure, or this could be a replacement of just the pier portion to the [east] of the existing structures. If our improvements are in excess of 48-percent, then elevation requirements could be triggered concerning the structures, which could have funding consequences. The extent to which the town is interested in proceeding with hazard mitigation measures could also have funding implications. The purpose of this workshop is that Town Council wishes to receive public input on a number of items, and the big question is does the public what the pier rebuilt? If yes, then what is the public’s vision for the pier? There are funding considerations, if the town wants it rebuilt, how much is the town willing to spend? For every $750,000 FEMA authorizes the town has to match $250,000. We have been back and forth twice now with FEMA and its back in their court. FEMA is looking at the considerations that we’ve been talking about, which is still the defining the facility. Both OCRM (Office of Coastal Resource Management) and FEMA for the National Flood Insurance Program, have defined it as the entire facility. So we will just have to wait and see what FEMA decides.

Mayor Childs asked for an explanation of hazard mitigation. Ms. Fellner said hazard mitigation is anything that could be done to eliminate future damage, i.e. concrete piles or things of that nature. Construction that would should we have another storm help to mitigate and reduce damage. Mayor Childs asked about the elevation having to be raised. Ms. Fellner said depending on what FEMA comes back with as the structure it could trigger that requirement.

Mr. Ron Mask, 10th Avenue North: I just noticed your comment about extending the pier west and I was wondering is that mean the east out into the ocean [see line 18], or did you actually mean west? Ms. Fellner said it should read to the east, and thaned Mr. Mask for the correction.

Mr. Joe Luzzi, Garden City: I also represent a company called Woodbridge Contractors. I talked at the last workshop about concrete foundations. I found some more photos online. In fact, right here in Market Common, if you take a look at the bridges that go over their waterways, they have concrete foundations. I’m in the process of checking with some major concrete prefabricators to see about some prices and some engineering for using concrete to suspend the pier. Also at the last meeting, I [mentioned] what might’ve been possible grant money from the government. I was wondering if anything might’ve been done with that. Do you recall, ma’am, there was a… Ms. Fellner replied from the audience that it was too soon to apply for any grant funds. Mr. Luzzi said okay, I will check into little further myself. It had to do with using recycled materials that might, that the town might be able to be eligible for grant money. [At] one of the last input meetings, bronze plaques [were mentioned.] I was wondering if Town Council would consider an independent person to collect money for those plaques; have the plaques made, and the money, it’s about $200 per plaque, donated to the town for funding the pier. I have a son that’s an artist, and he’s going to make up a new logo that includes the pier for Surfside Beach. I’ll have that for the next input meeting. I was wondering if the council would consider an independent person to go and sell those plaques; present those plaques to the people to purchase them, and then be responsible for putting those plaques
back on the pier once the pier is finished. In other words, the person will pay for the plaque. It will be made, given to them, and then after the pier is completed, they could come back to whatever company that we use or in this case, my son. Is there any interest in doing it? Then he would be responsible for putting them on the pier. Mayor Childs said that would be something to discuss with the administrator. I’m sure that’s got a lot of ins and outs that we have to be careful of, being that it’s a town property. Mr. Luzzi: I just want to give you these pictures.

Mr. Leonard Pressley, 7th Avenue South: My wife and I, we’ve been here for 33 years. We’ve been going to the pier every year it’s been up there. What I will work for is putting in at least concrete pilings.

Please, get a concrete base to keep the pier. The pier, from what I’ve seen, is very low maintenance. [K]eep it here. People enjoy it. Tourists enjoy it. I don’t see no [sic] reason why we couldn’t get a concrete base on it. Thank you.

Ms. Carolyn Powell: I’ve lived in Surfside 40 years. I love the pier; want it back. What I want to know, when we’re looking at materials, do we know why the other piers survived and ours didn’t? Springmaid and ours? Are the others wooden, or do they have concrete bases? What? Mayor Childs said no, they’re wooden, also. We just got hit by the brunt of the storm, I believe. It just came in our direction along with Springmaid pier. Ms. Powell: Okay.

Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I’d like to know what the annual revenue from the pier is and the admission fees, and is that enough to offset the $250,000 per $1 million that we would have to pay. And, I’d also like to know how much the insurance, the FEMA would be, to cover the pier, and what the annual maintenance is. Mayor Childs said I was told insurance on the pier we have now would be $100,000 a year if it was insured. Unknown speaker: Over that. Mayor Childs said so, it’s a pretty good chunk of money. Ms. Fellner said the answer to the businesses on the pier is yes, that would be enough to self-insure going forward. Our rents are approximately $130,000, but then we have a revenue stream from fishing, and also about one mil that we get from the admissions/spectator fees of about $68,000 to $70,000, which varies every year. If we go a little bit bigger and better, and include the additional amenities from the amended OCRM permit, then were talking about another business or two businesses, because that building would be sizable. With those rents the bond can be paid off rather than using general fund monies, or having to figure out a new source. It could be paid off out of pier funds, just like the pier has been paying back the general fund. We still have enough money to pay even with just the current rents. We have enough money in those funds right now to pay for the rest of the debt to the general fund. I don’t know if council is aware of that. We’ll be talking more about that at the budget workshop. Even with this happening, there is to going to be just enough money to pay for that, and to retire that debt to the general fund.

Mr. Curtis Kramer: My wife and I operate the Pier Outfitters down on the pier. (** as to your question, I can testify that I paid over $90,000 last year in rent alone, and collected in excess of $212,000 in admission fees. That’s just what I was able to collect and give to the pier. A couple things that I wanted to make the council aware of is the original footprints of those buildings were designed for 1950s usage. I pulled up some numbers from July 2011, and how many walkers and fishermen we had, and then in July 2016 last year. In 2011 we had 14,000 walkers just in the month of July, as well as 2,705 fishermen. In 2016 that number jumped to 20,263 walkers and 3,193 fishermen. So as you can see the trend is certainly to an increase in usage, not a decrease. The building that we’re in and the facilities we’re using, they’re painfully small at times of year. Not the entire year, through the summer months when we generate 80- percent of our revenues we are jam-packed in there. It is tight. All of you, I know, have been down to the pier in the summer. You’ve seen just how crowded that store can really be. So I know the restaurant has, as you well know, tried to expand and make their footprint bigger. So when going forward, I really would encourage you to take a look at. It’s been over 60 years since that was originally designed and built. Look for the next 60 years and what the town needs, and what the pier is going to require. How many people do you anticipate servicing in that time? I’m certainly not going to be there and neither will you guys, but somebody’s going to be stuck with that problem later on. I would hope you take that into consideration. I can also attest to the fact that we just in the last month, we’ve seen well over a thousand people come into that store. I wish they were all here today to see, so you could see them. Everybody has voiced unanimous opinions that they want the pier back. They want it back, not next year, but they want it this year. We go to
Mayor Childs said I would like to tell everybody the town is going as fast as we can. This is a something that the administrator deals with on almost a daily basis. I had a conversation with fellow this weekend [about this.] [I want] to make sure that everybody knows that we are doing as much as we can. If you've ever dealt with the Federal Government, it is not going to be the fastest thing you can deal with. So we are not the hold up in any way, shape or form. Mr. Kramer's right. I've been in his store when the line is wiggling around all the way to the door with people trying to get to the cash register. You have some good points, and thanks for those figures, Mr. Kramer.

Mr. Brady Simpson: I've been living here for 24 years. I've been going to the pier for over 50 years. I'm originally Charlotte, North Carolina. I was up there this past week. In every restaurant I went to, every person I talked, the first thing they asked was about was Surfside. I told him what I know, and when they asked about Surfside, they're talking about Surfside pier. They said well, we've heard a lot of stuff about Surfside pier. This is what 90-percent of the people told me, we've got reservations for Surfside this year, but next year we will not have reservations for Surfside. We'll be in North Carolina or somewhere else in South Carolina where I can take my kids to go fishing, and they say all I ever hear about Surfside is one time it's going to be built next year, and then they'll say it's going to be in the fall, and now it's up to 19; it'll be up to 20 the next time. People, this is the drawing card of Surfside Beach. I'm telling you the facts. Anywhere you go, it's on Internet. It's on the TV. It's everywhere advertising Surfside Beach can't get together with their prices. They can't to get together with this and that. I've seen three piers destroyed in the past, and I worked there at the pier for 13 years for Mr. Kramer after I retired from Charlotte and enjoyed it very much. We had a good time, but there was three little kids come in the tackle shop this morning, while I was standing in there. They had their little fishing rods with 'em. The man behind the counter said we're not open. We can't go fishing. There was three little kids standing there crying, because they couldn't go out on the pier. People, I'm telling you we need to do something. We need to get money somewhere. But, I know what's going to happen, because you're gonna to miss that money you draw, you get from the pier. People are gonna have to start paying taxes. Somebody's gonna have to pay for this pier. You're going to need it really bad. I appreciate it. I'm not here to make anybody mad, but I'm just telling you the facts of what I know, and that's what I have. I appreciate you giving me the privilege to talk.

Mayor Childs said once again, I would like to say that in order to expedite this process, we have actually contracted a consulting firm that knows how to handle these deals. So it will expedite it as opposed to us trying to reinvent the wheel. These consultants work with FEMA. They know what they're doing. As soon as the engineers come and give us what has to be done, then we can move on to decide what we're going to do; where we're going to get the money. I can assure you that we cannot go any faster than we're going now, unless one of you lucky people have $2 to $3 million you'd like to lend us for a short term, and then we can get started right away.

Mr. Brad Dean: I'm the chairman of the Myrtle Beach area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you Mayor Childs, Town Council, and staff. I appreciate the open, inclusive process that the council has undertaken to evaluate this very important project. We knew when you engaged in this that you would get plenty of feedback from residents and local businesses. But, we wanted to make sure that your visitors were not left out of that process. So, we worked with some local Surfside businesses to survey past visitors to Surfside just to make sure that their perspective is included, as well. I don't think you're gonna hear much different than what you've already heard. There are a couple points I did want to share with you. Mayor, I've got copies of a letter and the survey results that I'll leave with Ms. Herrmann for each member of council. I think a couple things are really important to note: 90-percent of the visitors who come to Surfside say they visited a pier. Of course, then we asked which pier, and almost all of them said the Surfside pier. So there is no doubt that this is a huge attractor to Surfside. That is no surprise to anyone, but what is interesting is the size of the groups. This was alarming to me. The average party size for a vacationer to the Grand Strand is about four people, or just a little bit over four. The average party size to the Surfside pier exceeds six, in fact, it is closer to eight people. So what that tells you is a lot of large multi-generational families and other
That's certainly a possibility. It could also be that they just choose another community along the Grand Strand to stay. But then, Surfside loses those tax dollars the visitors bring in, and that ultimately means you have to raise taxes to maintain services. I think, first, visitors have spoken loudly and clearly. They want to see the pier rebuilt. Included in the letter that we're going to distribute, there's also some open-ended comments where we asked people what you would like to see different or better about the pier so that as you're looking for the future vision of this pier you have some feedback from your visitors, as well. I'll just say, Mayor, having dealt with FEMA and the Federal Government on many projects, including an interstate highway that started when President Reagan was president, and we're were still trying to build it, I appreciate what you're up against. We appreciate your service. Thank you all very much. Mayor Childs said thank you. We appreciate the Chamber's input, Mr. Dean, very much.

Mayor Childs said I just want to add this, in case it does come up in conversation, we are going to rebuild the pier. That's never been a question. It's just a matter of how big it will be and the type of pier.

Mr. Phil Vassar: I'm with the Surfside Beach Resort Hotel on the oceanfront. (**) follow Mr. Dean as a speaker, because he has so much information. I'll go through as best I can. I'll reiterate something both that Mr. Kramer and Mr. Dean said, in 2016, a shortened season, we hosted over 6,000 guests on the pier ourselves, and similar numbers for the two years prior to that. Our guests don't come here just because of the pier. I'll be honest about that. They come here for, the first thing, is for the beach, our beautiful beach. But one of the things that brings them back here year after year, paraphrasing Mr. Dean, is the iconic pier that is a major part of Surfside. [According to Mr. Dean, ] 25-percent of the people might not come back if it's not rebuilt. That's a big number, as Mr. Dean said, in tax dollars for our community. Although I don't have the pleasure of living here now, I lived in this town for 35-plus years. I saw my son catch one of his first fish off that pier. It is one of the biggest joys for him to think about going fishing on that pier. Many times we come and have dinner on the pier and then walked out on it afterwards. Everybody that comes on that pier doesn't just come to fish. I have one little question, where are we on the engineering? Ms. Fellner said the RFO will open April 13th. Mr. Vassar asked if we're going to be able to extend the pier out further. Ms. Fellner explained that we can't extend the pier with the existing OCRM permit; but we could use some footage to increase the business spaces, and have terminals at the end of the pier. Mr. Vassar said with the pier as it exists now, and you have engineering coming through for OCRM and for FEMA, when will that engineering study be done? Ms. Fellner said the first thing is a structural engineer has to look at it. Mr. Vassar said right, and when do we think that's going to happen. Ms. Fellner said the RFO will open April 13th.

Mr. Vassar said the reason I asked that question, Mr. Mayor, and Councilmembers, I think that if we can allow 50, 60, or 70 feet of access to that pier, I believe it would become a tourist attraction. I really do believe people would want come see, and be able to walk out on that pier as it is today before it is replaced. I think that's a big attraction for this whole town. So, I hope we'll get that done, and get moving. Finally, it is fantastic to hear the positive feedback from our councilmembers, and from our staff. They do a great job. We really appreciate what you're doing, and just only hope if you need a little push, Mr. Stevens, you know I can kick it when it needs to be. (Laughter) So, if you need a little kicking power, just come on down and ask us. I don't have $2 million to give you. If I did... Mayor Childs said you do have it. I know. Mr. Vassar said if I did I'd loan it to you. (**) Thank you very much, and just keep up the good work. We appreciate all you do.
Mayor Childs said OCRM and the US Army Corps of Engineers are two other groups that we have to deal with. There are a lot of people involved in this process. What those agencies do a lot of times is out of our control.

Mr. Simpson, I think we ought to replace the wooden pilings. That’s the iconic pier; it’s made out of wood, put them back down, we’d never lose the pier, because the storm doesn’t destroy the pilings. But, I agree with put them back down. If we could figure out how to do that and attach them easily and pull them up and put marina called me, and said you need number those pieces like a puzzle, and pull them up, and then we wouldn’t lose the pier. Long ago when I was your Horry County Councilman, the head of Ocean Lakes put the wooden pilings back in. I’ve told the administrator the storm doesn’t tear the pilings down. What Mr. Howard Barnard, Ocean Boulevard North: I’ve been here for over 30 years. I agree with Mr. Barnard, Ocean Boulevard North: I’ve been here for over 30 years. I agree with Mr. Howard Barnard, Ocean Boulevard North: I’ve been here for over 30 years. I agree with Mr. Dean's and Mr. Kramer's point of looking at the pier first. Make it strong enough that you can eventually build on top of it (using conventional construction. It doesn’t need to be done now. You don’t need to build a retail business there. And the current gift shop, after the pier is built that's all conventional construction that can happen later. Get the pier built first. As far as expediting, there are these folks with the Army Corps of Engineers out of Charleston and they love road trips. They love to come to the Myrtle Beach area to look at major projects. Somebody might want to call and invite them up here. Maybe have them for lunch on the pier. Let them know how much that the city does need this pier to be open again, and it needs to be expedited. So thank you for allowing me to speak again.

Mr. Bob Holman, Lake Court: I can speak for my family, and the friends that we have. We’ve been here three and half years. I couldn’t imagine Surfside without the pier. I’m pleased to hear that we’re definitely rebuilding the pier. But, I also appreciate Mr. Dean's and Mr. Kramer's point of looking at the future. It seems like based on trends and based on how everybody’s continuing to come here that it makes sense to make the footprint at least a little bit bigger. Even if we’ve gotta swallow a little higher price tag right now to make sure that 50 years down the road as my kids grow up and have kids of own, their kids and grandkids can play in Surfside. So I would implore you to look towards the future, and make sure we can we can fit. Secondly, though, are we looking at raising the funds through a bond for the $250,000? Is that how were looking, because I heard one point were talking about selling off the baseball field over on Holmestown Road. Is that off? I heard rumors about that. Mayor Childs said once we find out what we’re going to do, then the funding will come into place depending on what’s needed. The ballfield has nothing to do with this at all. Mr. Holman said that the ballfield was never a consideration. Mayor Childs said no, sir.

Mr. Brady Simpson: As the contractor said, we need a pier. We’re talking about a cement pier. I think that’s a joke for Surfside Beach right now. I really think in my heart a cement pier is a joke, because you’re looking at $5 million, probably, at the least to build a concrete pier, or probably more than that. I want at pier. If it’s just like the one we have now, I think that’s what we ought to build. If it needs to be added on to, I think that’s what we ought to do to the one that’s out there now. Because we are in Surfside Beach, I can stand here now and say we’re in trouble. That pier out there draws more money than you’ll ever dream it does. That’s what I’ve got to say, and I appreciate the time to talk. Thank you very much.

Mr. Howard Barnard, Ocean Boulevard North: I’ve been here for over 30 years. I agree with Mr. Simpson.] I want to replace the pier, but I think we need to keep it simple, too. Mayor. I think we need to put the wooden pilings back in. I’ve told the administrator the storm doesn’t tear the pilings down. What tears the pier down is a storm hitting the cross pieces. If we could figure out how to put the cross pieces down simply, and have a contracts with somebody to pull them up when we knew a big storm was coming, we wouldn’t lose the pier. Long ago when I was your Horry County Councilman, the head of Ocean Lakes [Campground] called me, and said you need number those pieces like a puzzle, and pull them up, and then put them back down. If we could figure out how to do that and attach them easily and pull them up and put them back down, we’d never lose the pier, because the storm doesn’t destroy the pilings. But, I agree with [Mr. Simpson], I think we ought to replace the wooden pilings. That’s the iconic pier; it’s made out of wood,
Mr. Ott: As everybody else is, we want to build the pier, not for me, but for her (pointing to his granddaughter), and for her children. I would ask our administrator if we build it out of wood pilings again, I would like to know what technology is available today that was not available before. We just spent $80,000 to get people on the pier. That's the kind of business we need. It's a business decision. It's not an emotional decision. We have to be logical. Mr. Kramer spoke about how much business has increased. Well, believe me, if we build it back bigger and better, people are going to come, just like they came to the library that is right across the street from my house. Mr. Barnard, you build it bigger, bigger and better, believe me. I was on you about that, but I love the library now. You built it bigger and better, and now more and more people are coming to it. It is gonna be the same thing that happens with the pier. It's going to be something that our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren will be using for years on end. That's all I'm going to say about it. I'm willing to pay as a citizen whatever's necessary, and we should build a pier back that's going to last. That's going to last us, our children, and our grandchildren, because this is the focal point of the [town.] Mr. Dean, and Mr. Vassar also met with the Councilmember Pellegrino, me and late Councilmember Magliette. They talked about Surfside Beach, and we were trying to come up with an idea of ways to market the town. They said you've got the pier; expand on it. Personally, I would love to see not only the pier built back, but I'd like to see some type of a small boardwalk stretching from Scottie's Restaurant to River City Café where people can also gather right up next to the beach. You could have a band down there to play and entertain. It brings people to the center of this town, and believe me, these figures that they have make a lot of sense. [About] 78-percent of the people who go to the pier, according to the Chamber of Commerce, I just read it [on Mr. Dean's handout,] spend anywhere from $10 up to more than $50; 31-percent spend more than $50. Believe me, we need the people. There's a lot of realty companies, Surfside Realty, Old Colony Realty, Garden City Realty, that all have rental property here. Mr. Vassar has a hotel. We have the Holiday Inn. They come here for a reason, and by the way, Mr. Vassar thank you for helping us get people on the pier. Your hotel actually spent money to get people on the pier. That's the kind of business we need. We need this; it is a business decision. It's not an emotional decision. We have to be logical. Mr. Kramer spoke about how much business has increased. Well, believe me, if we build it back bigger and better, people are going to come, just like they came to the library that is right across the street from my house. Mr. Barnard, you build it bigger, bigger and better, believe me. I was on you about that, but I love the library now. You built it bigger and better, and now more and more people are coming to it. It is gonna be the same thing that happens with the pier. It's going to be something that our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren will be using for years on end. That's all I'm going to say about it. I'm willing to pay as a citizen whatever's necessary. If I had the money, believe me, I'd pull it out my pocket and start loaning it to the town, but I don't have it. Maybe my wife will win the lottery and we can donate some money. Thank you very much.

Mr. Pressley: What you're saying about the wooden pilings, this is the third pier since I've been here. This is the third pier we've put out there. If we're going to invest money, I think we need to invest money to bring it up to date, and more and more people would come, I feel. I appreciate all you do.

Mr. Stevens: Unfortunately, if Mr. Luzzi brings a bid to the town, I will be able to vote on that. So I will have to leave the decision up to the rest of my distinguished colleagues, because I work with Waterbridge as well. I want to speak as a citizen first. I've been coming to Surfside Beach since 1954. I remember the first pier. I went fishing on it and it was destroyed after Hurricane Hazel. Later on we had another pier that was built back after it was destroyed. I had the opportunity during college to drive down through Jacksonville Beach, Florida. They had a concrete pier back in 1973. Then I went by the same pier in December 2016. The pier was closed down for short period of time. It was concrete foundation with wood decking. Some of the decking was gone. That pier is already open. It opened in the end of January this year. I also sent all of councilmembers a study done by the State of Florida. Florida has more coastline, more piers than any other state in the United States. Out of all their piers 70-percent are built out of concrete. Some of them will have a concrete foundation, and wood decking. They showed one pier that the decking was taken out, but the pilings were still there. So they were able to go back and replace the decking and build the pier back without any problem. Pilings were still there after major storms. As far as a citizen, I would gladly pay extra taxes, buy a plaque, do whatever's necessary to get the pier built back. I don't look at it for me. I look at for these two young men sitting right here on the front row. I look at this as something for the long term for our children, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rest assured, I'll be in the ground when our great-grandchildren are still using this pier. I'm going to use a phrase that Mr. Howard Barnard said when he was building the library across the street from my house and I was fighting, because they wanted to put a parking lot around my house. He said we should be bold. The town should be bold. We should do what's necessary, and we should build a pier back that's going to last. That's going to last us, our children, and our grandchildren, because this is the focal point of the [town.] Mr. Dean, and Mr. Vassar also met with the Councilmember Pellegrino, me and late Councilmember Magliette. They talked about Surfside Beach, and we were trying to come up with an idea of ways to market the town. They said you've got the pier; expand on it. Personally, I would love to see not only the pier built back, but I'd like to see some type of a small boardwalk stretching from Scottie's Restaurant to River City Café where people can also gather right up next to the beach. You could have a band down there to play and entertain. It brings people to the center of this town, and believe me, these figures that they have make a lot of sense. [About] 78-percent of the people who go to the pier, according to the Chamber of Commerce, I just read it [on Mr. Dean's handout,] spend anywhere from $10 up to more than $50; 31-percent spend more than $50. Believe me, we need the people. There's a lot of realty companies, Surfside Realty, Old Colony Realty, Garden City Realty, that all have rental property here. Mr. Vassar has a hotel. We have the Holiday Inn. They come here for a reason, and by the way, Mr. Vassar thank you for helping us get people on the pier. Your hotel actually spent money to get people on the pier. That's the kind of business we need. We need this; it is a business decision. It's not an emotional decision. We have to be logical. Mr. Kramer spoke about how much business has increased. Well, believe me, if we build it back bigger and better, people are going to come, just like they came to the library that is right across the street from my house. Mr. Barnard, you build it better, bigger and better, believe me. I was on you about that, but I love the library now. You built it bigger and better, and now more and more people are coming to it. It is gonna be the same thing that happens with the pier. It's going to be something that our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren will be using for years on end. That's all I'm going to say about it. I'm willing to pay as a citizen whatever's necessary. If I had the money, believe me, I'd pull it out my pocket and start loaning it to the town, but I don't have it. Maybe my wife will win the lottery and we can donate some money. Thank you very much.

Put it back that same way. Do it as expensively as we can. That would be my advice to you. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.
Mr. Courtney: Thank you for coming out today. I also enjoy the pier with my family and children, but it's important to me that we make sure that we do this right. We're talking about taking out a bond is what I'm hearing, and you're talking about wood versus concrete. I was very interested to hear from Mr. Kramer [about] the rents. I'd like to get to know what we're bringing in off that pier, if you wouldn't mind, the actual numbers of the income that were taking in. What I haven't heard in any of this discussion is whether that pier repairable. Can we fix the pier as it stands now? How many of the pilings have been compromised? This is something that we need to look at it. Also, could the pier be rebuilt for a third of the cost, if we go for a wood structure pier? I was told it would be from $2 million for wood to $4 million for a concrete pier. I'm still waiting to hear from the administrator whether or not the engineers believe that we can rebuild that pier as it is. That's something that's never been brought back to us. I agree with the extending the pier. I'd like to see [a boardwalk] extend from Scotties all the way to the hotel, because as I know from in the past staying at that hotel, the Surfside Beach Resort, it'd be such a pleasure when walking out and walking down to the pier, using some of the services that we have there, and also being able to access to River City Café. I think we could do a little bit more, if we can bring it back closer inland. I know that we can't go out. I was under the impression at one time that it was extended further than what was. Is that correct? Ms. Fellner said she had been told that the pier has never been any longer than it is now. Mr. Courtney: With that being said, I want to see if we can do something on the west side of pulling it back in, and we would be able to connect with a boardwalk. [Let's] see if something can be done about that. But again, I'd like to know whether or not that pier [can be repaired]; how bad is it; how does it stand today? Can it be repaired at a third of the cost of rebuilding one? We have not discussed that at all. So, we have a lot of important decisions to make, and we've got a lot more information that we need before we move forward. Me, personally, I want to see this move as fast as possible. I want to see that pier up there. But as you know and I know, dealing with the Feds and the State whatever we might get, whatever funds, we're going to have to do something about this as far as taking out a bond on it. So I think we're still waiting on these decisions to be made. Hopefully, this information will come back to us sooner than later. I thank you very much for your input. It means a lot. We'll see where we go from here.

Mayor Childs: I think the big thing to Mr. Courtney's question is that's what the structural engineers are going to do. You never know, they are likely to say you can rebuild. How? We don't know that, because we do not have any structural engineers on staff. That's what we're going to find out. They will tell us whether you can, and what you can rebuild, whether it is the whole pier or half. That's the reason for the structural engineer. We'll find that out. Like Ms. Fellner said, the bids are coming the 13th, and if anybody would like be here, the openings will be here in this Council Chamber. It will be mid-June by the time they do all their studying. I can't imagine how in depth that study must be for a pier of its size. So, once again, we're going as fast as we can. We'd all like to have the pier rebuilt by July 1st, but we know that won't happen.

Mr. Stevens: There's one question I'd like to ask the administrator. A few years ago when we bought the pier from Mr. Scalise, did we not have to spend about $600,000 replacing pilings that were either eaten up by marine worms? Ms. Fellner said she was not aware of spending $600,000. Mr. Stevens: I remember that the town had to vote to spend extra money because pilings were not very good shape. They had been eaten up by marine worms. You may have not been on; this was during Mr. Booth's time. We've had to replace several pilings all on the pier since then, right, and wraps because marine worms ate the pilings, is that correct? Ms. Fellner said several pilings were wrapped. (**unknown speaker from audience) Mr. Stevens: Correct me if I'm wrong, but has there been any situation where marine worms ate concrete pilings? Ms. Fellner said no, but marine worms do get into rebar.

Mayor Childs said keep in mind will have another meeting May 13th at 10:00 a.m. If you think of anything between now and the next meeting, please be sure to show up. We've had these three meetings to
try to accommodate everybody. We’ve had them in the daytime, the nighttime and the next one will be on Saturday for those that were unable to make it to the night or the day meetings during the week. We’re trying to make sure everybody’s opinion is heard. We value everybody’s opinion. I think everybody should have an input on this. This is a town wide project, and we want to hear from everybody. We really appreciate your ideas, and come back if you’ve got more, and then will all get together and see what we can do about this pier.

**ADJOURNMENT.** Mayor Childs since there are no other comments or questions, I’ll adjourn the workshop. It’s 10:53 a.m. Thank everybody for coming very much

Prepared and submitted by,

Approved:  April 25, 2017

__________________________________  _________________________________
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

__________________________________  _________________________________
Robert F. Childs, Mayor

__________________________________  _________________________________
Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

__________________________________  _________________________________
Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

__________________________________  _________________________________
Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

__________________________________  _________________________________
David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

__________________________________  _________________________________
Julie M. Samples, Town Council

__________________________________  _________________________________
Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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