Executive Session - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment of a person to a public body. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Samples were absent. A quorum was present. Mr. Ott moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:04 p.m. Mr. Courtney 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.D. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:04 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, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Samples were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Fire Chief Otte, and Interim Police Chief Hofmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Councilmember Pellegrino gave the invocation.

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

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to delete Discussion Item 8.B. Parking Committee Recommendations. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Courtney explained that there were too many questions for the parking committee for this discussion to be held. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting March 28, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the March 28, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Fire Staffing, Chief Otte. Mr. Courtney asked Chief Otte a series of questions regarding fire staffing:

Q: How many career firefighters does the town employ? A: Seven.

Q: How many career firefighters are on duty for each tour (shift)? A: Two. A captain and an engineer on each of the three shifts.
Q: When a fire call is answered, do they run a truck and an engine? A: The engine typically responds first with two personnel.

Q: How could an interior line be advanced with only two on scene? A: In certain circumstances, the engineer would secure the truck and then help the captain advance the line. This would only be done when a life is in danger.

Q: How do you know when a life is in danger? A: That is a judgment call made by staff. Considerations are the number of cars parked at the location; what is reported during the call for assistance; knowing whether the structure was occupied. Officers are trained to determine whether a fire is survivable.

Mr. Courtney believed that was risky and expressed concern that the department is run with two career personnel on each tour.

Q: Did you know that OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requires a minimum of four on each shift? A: OSHA requires two in and two out. Several NFPA (National Fire Prevention Association) Codes have a minimum of four.

Mr. Courtney said that he was concerned about not adhering to the OSHA standards and the NFPA standards. That was why over the winter the organizational committee discussed hiring additional firefighters. This was brought to council’s attention in the past.

Q: Of the career firefighters on staff, how much time do they have remaining before retirement? A: Probably between five to seven years of those who are nearing retirement. Many of the members have 20-plus years in fire service.

Q: The town depends on volunteers to assist with fighting fires? A: Volunteers are toned out (called) the same time as staff. Within about seven minutes, there will be a mass of people on scene. Garden City/Murrells Inlet and Horry County fire departments are also toned at the same time when there is a structure fire.

Mr. Courtney said seven minutes for a fire is a long time, and reiterated his concern that two men on duty is insufficient to protect the town. Chief Otte said fires double in size every minute. Mr. Courtney reiterated that SAFER Grant program should be used to grow the department staff. Chief Otte explained that there is a list of 12 to 15 part-time people that are called to supplement staff.

Q: How do you work a building fire without the ladder truck? A: Depending on locations, volunteers and other companies will be on location within seven minutes.

Mr. Courtney said Chief Otte should meet with the organizational committee to develop a plan to have four career firefighters per shift.

Mr. Ott said he did not understand how the fire system worked, but his concern was that a career firefighter was going in without any support. Chief Otte said firefighters always enter buildings in groups of two. My officers and engineers all have the experience to make the call as to whether a structure should be entered, and again, once the engineer sets the truck, he can enter the building along with the other firefighter. Unless the firefighters believe there is a chance for survival, they will not enter the structure. Mr. Ott said whatever the town needs to do to have the manpower necessary, it should be done.
Mr. Stevens said that Chief Otte said OSHA requires four. Chief Otte said OSHA requires two in and two out. Mr. Stevens said the town only has two, so what would happen if something happens to one of the two firefighters on scene and OSHA says you’re supposed to have four. Doesn’t that open the town to a lawsuit? Chief Otte said that is always a possibility. Mr. Stevens said there are many condominiums and high rise homes, particularly in the R3 district. It seems to him that we are short staffed as far as career firefighters. Don’t you have to have two people to carry a hose up the stairs? Chief Otte said one person can maneuver the hose up the steps, and many high rise buildings have standpipe systems with hose connections on each floor. Mr. Stevens asked if the ladder truck was taken to a high rise fire. Chief Otte said the truck with water and hoses is dispatched first, the ladder truck is brought by the volunteers who are called at the same time staff is called. Mr. Stevens asked if Chief Otte believed the department would run better with four career firefighters, and said we are not compliant now. Chief Otte said technically we are not compliant, but we have two people on the county ambulance that are trained firefighters in addition to certified EMTs that are counted toward the town’s four members on duty. Mr. Stevens asked why we are not compliant. Chief Otte replied I guess it’s because of money. Mr. Stevens said we need to spend a little bit more money on public safety.

Mr. Pellegrino asked how many volunteer firemen the town has. Chief Otte said the number fluctuates between 25 and 30, which includes support staff; interior firefighters; exterior firefighters, and truck operators. Mr. Pellegrino asked how many structure fires the town has had over the last year that no volunteers showed up to assist, and whether more than two firefighters were on scene for previous structure fires. Chief Otte said there have been no structure fires in the past year, and that volunteers have always responded to structure fires, in addition to the mutual aid companies responding. Mr. Pellegrino said we are ISO1 certified, and asked for an explanation of how the Horry County medics help. Chief Otte reiterated that the county EMTs are also trained firefighters and are assigned to the town’s station for duty. They are counted as two additional firefighters on duty to total the required four. Mr. Pellegrino said the county EMTs have a dual role. Chief Otte said yes. Mr. Pellegrino said the organization that certifies the department, ISO (Insurance Service Organization), determined that our department is rated ISO1, which is the best. I understand the issues, but in the end once additional firefighters come on full time and after the grant ends the town will pay. Chief Otte said the grant terms now stipulate that the town contributes a certain percentage annually, until it assumes full financial responsibility. Mr. Pellegrino said it isn’t just salary, costs also include insurance, equipment, and benefits. This is a huge investment. During the upcoming budget meeting we need to think about this as it might lead to cutting other services or asking for a tax increase. Chief Otte said the town lost 7.5 points out of 15 total points in the grading, so adding staff would gain points. If staff is added, we will probably lose volunteer response, because many of them work and it is very hard for them to respond during work hours. Mr. Pellegrino asked if there were more volunteers in the past. Chief Otte said the number goes up and down.

Mayor Childs said an ISO1 rating cannot get any better. Chief Otte said yes, that is right. Mayor Childs said we must be doing something right. Chief Otte said we’re on the right track.

Mr. Ott asked if the ISO knew how the town was operating would the town still be rated ISO1. Chief Otte said at this point yes, because we still have four people per shift, and the only thing that has changed is the volunteer response time. It is just a matter of time till volunteers will be unable to assist because of training time and job commitments. Mr. Ott said there is a good chance volunteers won’t show. Chief Otte said it very well could happen.

Mr. Pellegrino asked if volunteers were paid. Chief Otte said they receive $10 for each call to which they respond. Mr. Pellegrino said that is a much less expensive way to solve the problem.

Mr. Stevens said he heard about the ISO ratings. The bottom line is this is about saving lives. If spending a few dollars could save somebody’s life in this town, I’m all for it. Mr. Stevens asked what could have happened if a fire started during the recent high winds where the buildings are close
together. He reiterated that in his opinion this about public safety. If the town does not comply with OSHA, and we need the extra people, I’d rather spend the money to save a life. Chief Otte said the primary goal is life safety, and he also thought about the high wind situation. A fire during high winds would be problematic.

Mr. Ott asked Ms. Fellner to state in her opinion how long the town had operated short-handed. Ms. Fellner said when she first started working for the town there was only one career firefighter on each shift. She requested that the number be increased to two, and council agreed. The town is compliant with OSHA and ISO. To increase fire staffing further is a council decision that should be addressed at the budget meeting, because it will be a large expenditure. Chief Otte added that it will cost about $250,000 per year to add six firefighters. Ms. Fellner said that would enable four career staff on each shift.

Mr. Ott asked the administrator if she recommended fire staff be increased. He understood it is ultimately council’s decision, but usually the administrator made a recommendation. Ms. Fellner said no, the number of career staff was doubled years ago after many discussions with Chief Cimini. The town’s response time is very fast. She said if everything was perfect, and there was excess money in the budget, then I would love to put more money into public safety. We never want to lose a life. It isn’t practical to have 100 lifeguards on the beach nor is it practical to have a fire station staffed with all career personnel. We have to manage it with practicality. Ms. Fellner said having said that, for me, public safety and liability are huge concerns for the town.

Mr. Courtney said I have experience in firefighting and public safety. What I’m gathering is that we’re running our department with two career firefighters and volunteers. Firefighters are not going to enter a dwelling unless they know someone is in there. Staff is rolling the dice on that. The SAFER grant exists for a reason. Myrtle Beach was smart; it picked up ten firefighters using the grant. We have no problem picking up police officers, but we should at least have minimum staffing in the fire department. The ISO1 rating sounds great on paper, but realistically you’re telling me you’re going to roll up to a scene with just an engine, no truck. You’re waiting on the volunteers 10 to 15 minutes to get there. I know from being in other towns that fire departments have actually collapsed, because you can’t get any young people on staff or volunteering. Without the properly certified staff on scene, you won’t get a line in the interior for ten minutes; the home would be lost. Mr. Courtney continued saying the other problem as I see it is the engineer will leave the engine to help the other firefighter drag a line upstairs into a raised beach house. Very risky. Chief Otte said it was a matter of getting the next company on scene to assist, which is only a few minutes away. Several scenarios were discussed. Mr. Courtney said the town hires full time laborers for public works. In my opinion, our priorities are skewed, because we should be looking for career firefighters. Paying a volunteer $10 a call; you hope they show up. We talk about things at the organizational meetings, and you need to follow through. This is about saving a life. I don’t want to take a chance. I met an elderly gentleman when I was campaigning that was the only full time resident in a condominium building. You would never know he was there unless someone told you. Mr. Courtney continued saying I asked the administrator and the fire chief to look into the SAFER grant in the past. The town should take advantage of the grant, because it will pay for equipment and training. Eventually, current staff will retire. We need to have someone [ready to take over.] I don’t want to wait till that day comes. Again, if we can hire full time laborers, we can hire two more full time firefighters.

Mayor Childs called for an end to this discussion.

Mr. Stevens asked if a consensus could be given to direct the administrator to look into the SAFER grant. Ms. Fellner said the grant was investigated. The issue is one, two, or three members of council cannot direct us to do something like that. If Town Council wishes to increase staff at the fire department, and use the SAFER grant to fund the positions, then Town Council needs to direct staff by motion to do so.
C. Administrator's Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Ott asked if the sidewalk inspection reports could be delivered at the next meeting. Ms. Fellner hoped so, and said she would let him know. Mr. Ott asked if she was able to find out why North Myrtle Beach got so much money for beach renourishment; was it the Omnibus package? Ms. Fellner said that money was from a totally different source of public money. The town was not eligible for that, because our Reach was already funded. Adding Reach 1 should improve the chances of a successful contract bid for all the Reaches. Mr. Ott asked when this would be done. Ms. Fellner said the most current date was in the report. Mr. Ott said June 2nd. Ms. Fellner said some contractors have expressed interest in the bid, and she hopes it’s successful. Mr. Ott asked Ms. Fellner if she could speak with the Army Corp staff. Ms. Fellner said yes, sometimes, only once or twice a year when joint meetings were scheduled.

Mr. Ott said I do not believe it was necessary to form a focus group to find a new police chief. I recommend that the interim chief be offered the position of chief right now. I believe he could do the job, and I would like to see that done. Chief Hofmann came up through the ranks. I believe he is the man we need for this town. The man is very well qualified to do the job. Ms. Fellner said I understand what you’re saying. There are many people in the public who I am sure feel the same way. I have every confidence in Interim Chief Hofmann, or I would not have spoken with him about the position. He plans to put in an application, but the labor attorney always suggest that we go through the hiring process, especially for a director’s or chief’s position, so that is what we are going to do. It is normally a position where you receive many, many applications. The last time the chief’s position was advertised, we received about 270 applications. I have every confidence that the best applicant will come out on top. Mr. Ott reiterated that he did not believe this was necessary. It was going to cost the town a lot of money to go through the process. Ms. Fellner reminded council that her position was salaried, and there would be no extra expense. Mayor Childs asked Ms. Fellner if she was following the advice of the labor attorney for this hiring process. Ms. Fellner said yes, I am.

Mr. Stevens said the focus group for reviewing the applications does not include a single councilmember. The last time a police chief was sought, there were three councilmembers on the focus group. Ms. Fellner said that was correct. Mr. Stevens continued saying that this is a council form of government, not a council-manager nor council-administrator [sic] form of government. Council needs to be involved in these type decisions. We have a very qualified person here that is looking at this job, and he is serving as our interim. I think council should be involved and I don’t think we should be doing focus groups. This doesn’t sound correct to me. I agree with Mr. Ott, why don’t we just ask for consensus and put him on there.

Mayor Childs said Town Council makes the final decision. Ms. Fellner said there was a change in the ordinance that makes this the administrator’s responsibility. Mr. Stevens reiterated his belief that councilmembers should be involved, and that no one could “talk to these people”, and Ms. Fellner was very hard to get ahold of. Ms. Fellner responded that I am not hard to get ahold of, Mr. Stevens. I answer all my calls on the same day, or within 24 hours. Every e-mail message is answered the same day.

Mr. Stevens referred to paragraph B on the administrator’s report and said it asks for emergency procurement. Last time we went to emergency procurement, we spent about $160,000 on a wall that materials priced [by a private company] in 2014 cost about $29,141.40. (Copies were distributed to councilmembers.) This is a list of marine contractors. If you’re going to do bids, I suggest that we contact all these marine contractors, and ask them to bid. I wasn’t able to find a license as a marine contractor for the bidder that submitted a bid for $174,000. Another bid was deemed nonresponsive. I don’t know what that means. Could you explain nonresponsive? Ms. Fellner said the bid was nonresponsive in a number of ways. The main problem was that the bidder did not submit an engineered solution, but
instead said that the town might want to consult an engineer after they did the job. The attorney is the one who said that a bid has to qualify. Mr. Stevens said he didn’t want to take the attorney’s recommendation, and I’d prefer this to go back to bid with the nine different companies to get a good bid. I am concerned about taxpayers’ money. If we spend money, it has to be based on competitive bidding. Ms. Fellner explained that the house being affected is in the R3 district and that the owner is not going to be able to rent it [until this repair is made]; this is a huge liability for the town and it only makes sense to negotiate with those who placed bids and other companies that did not bid to get the lowest price. Ms. Fellner said it will not go out to bid again. Mr. Stevens said it should go out to bid and reiterated his earlier comments about excessive cost. Ms. Fellner reiterated that it would not go out to bid again, unless four councilmembers directed her to do so. Mr. Stevens asked if there were four councilmembers that didn’t want to waste money again. Mayor Childs said that concurrence could not be sought at this time.

Mr. Courtney said I attended the bid opening. I agree with Mr. Stevens. There were two contractors who showed up. The bid was poorly written, because the contractors were looking at each other, because one understood that this was a repair. The other contractor understood that it the whole thing would be taken out and rebuilt. In my opinion, that was a big problem. The difference between a $174,000 bid and a $39,000 bid clearly shows there is something wrong. I think it should go out to bid again. As far as the rental house, this should have already been repaired. It should not have taken this long. Something should have been lined up in case we knew this was going to be our problem. I don’t agree with an emergency bid.

Mr. Ott said I looked at it, but I’m not a civil engineer [sic], but those pilings are in very deep. There is no need to replace them. There is a small section that looks like it needs repair. Ms. Fellner said that was her understanding, as well. From the list that Mr. Stevens shared, we contacted three of the nine companies. Myers was the only company that was responsive. Myers provided an estimate of $18,000 for the repair. Myers is one of the companies that we’ll call, and we will look for the lowest price. Mr. Pellegrino said I thought we looked at the companies on this list.

Mr. Courtney said the organizational committee should meet again to discuss firefighters, because the previous directives never came to light. (**) Ms. Fellner was unclear and asked whether Mr. Courtney wanted the discussion held by the organizational committee or by Town Council at the upcoming budget workshop. Mayor Childs said the budget workshop is just a few weeks off; let’s discuss it then. Ms. Fellner said the decision is council’s.

Mr. Pellegrino said we keep throwing this phrase around, ‘it just goes away and we don’t move forward.’ The reason we don’t move forward is because we can’t just say we’re going to spend $244,000 a year to improve public safety; we also have to say we will cut $244,000 from something else to balance the budget. Don’t come to the budget meeting and want this added, if you don’t know what you’re going to cut. The budget is static; you cannot add a number and not reduce another number. Everyone says they want, they want, they want, but doesn’t say what service they will cut. If you don’t come with that, it’s a waste of time.

Mayor Childs said Mr. Pellegrino is absolutely right. If we’re going to add to, we have to subtract something. I think we have to give this some serious consideration.

Mr. Courtney said he was good with making progress. This is a matter of wants and needs, so I’m all about making cuts in the budget. The newspaper had an article about a junior firefighter and I want to ask Ms. Fellner if she was aware of this prior to that article. Ms. Fellner said I was aware of this prior to the article. Mr. Courtney said I think it’s a shame for this town. Ms. Fellner said before Mr. Courtney said that; Mayor Childs interrupted asking Mr. Courtney if this could be discussed in a meeting with the administrator. I believe you’re getting into a legal issue. I think we will get ourselves in trouble. The administrator will be glad to answer all your questions regarding that issue.
Mr. Ott said this has been in the newspaper. There’s nothing secret. The only thing I know is
what I read in the newspaper. We’d like to ask the administrator, because there’s no comment from the
administrator in the newspaper and her name has been put in there. Ms. Fellner said well, there are a
couple of things I can say. First of all, neither one of you (Mr. Ott and Mr. Courtney) were on council at
the time. Council was aware of this. I did not know this for quite a period of time, and I’m talking months
later. So, this was so far after the fact, I’m not comfortable saying anything more at this time. I’m
concerned about HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). I know what the
attorney suggests, and that’s not to say anything in public. I’ll be happy to discuss this with
councilmembers at any time.

Mr. Courtney said HIPPA has nothing to do with it; it only has to do with the patient or the
personnel involved. We’re not talking about staff. Ms. Fellner said there is a huge liability for the town
here and that is my concern. Mr. Courtney said (***) I’m glad I wasn’t on council then.

Mr. Stevens said I was on council and I didn’t hear about it until way after the fact. Other
councilmembers knew about it two to three weeks before I did. I was left in the dark and finally, it came
out. I was upset that this information was withheld from some of the councilmembers. The late
Councilmember Magliette said he was in the same situation. We didn’t know about it, and should have. I
don’t like to be the last person that knows. Ms. Fellner said I think this is a lesson for me and I’ll do
everything in writing from now on. Mr. Stevens said now DHEH (South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control) is investigating. Ms. Fellner said just because something is in the press does
not make it so. Mr. Stevens said I understand that, but it’s still there. I’ve got people calling me right
now. The town is embarrassed; I’m embarrassed. God forbid, if that had been my daughter. I would
have been very upset.

Mr. Ott said I find this very troubling, especially if you kept this a secret from the town and
everybody. If you did do that; I hope you didn’t, but if you did do that I would like you to resign as soon
as possible, because I don’t want that held on our back, if you held that as a secret.

Mayor Childs asked Mr. Ott to hold on. The clerk has a hard time recording everything, so if the
audience would please keep the noise down. The recording picks up the whispers and everything, so
please stop your conversations.

Mr. Ott said I really hope you didn’t do that. If you did that I’ve lost all respect for you. If you
held that as a secret and it took two years for this to come out, it’s a disgrace to our town. Total disgrace
and I wish you would go, if you did that I don’t want you in my town. Thank you.

Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Ott, I was on council and shortly after Ms. Fellner found out, I knew. Mr.
Ott said you’re guilty, too, then. Mr. Pellegrino said we went through a process, Mr. Ott. Mr. Ott said
there is no process. It’s two years old. Mayor Childs gavelled Mr. Ott saying Mr. Pellegrino has the floor.
Mr. Pellegrino said I knew. We went through a process. The police were involved. We did investigations
on everyone who was involved, and we took care of the problem, the person responsible for the problem,
and we went through the appropriate process. There was no secret. You may disagree with the process,
and that’s fine, but you can’t accuse [Ms. Fellner] of keeping secrets, because she did find out after the
fact. Once she found out, she let everyone know so we could do a proper investigation. Mr. Ott said it
was terrible. Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Ott, you don’t even know the details of the investigation and what
happened, and you’re saying it’s terrible. This is a problem with council right now. We make all these
accusations based on no facts. Mr. Ott said the fact that there are signed affidavits and the fact that you
kept it from the public, [Mr. Pellegrino] you are as guilty as [Ms. Fellner] is in this.
Mr. Courtney asked if procedures were followed and paper work generated on this. Ms. Fellner said I would like to meet in private to discuss this. I followed exactly what the attorney said to the letter. Mr. Courtney asked who the attorney was at that time. Ms. Fellner said Mike Battle.

7. BUSINESS

A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0838 Chapter 17, Sign Ordinance, Administrator Fellner. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #17-0838 as presented. Mayor Childs second. Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. No amendments or changes were made at first reading. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0842, Section 12-67 Obstructions on the Beach, Councilmember Courtney. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0842 as presented. Mr. Courtney second. Mr. Ott said as discussed at the last meeting, the beach is wider on the north side of town that would accommodate an emergency lane. But on the south end there is something going wrong. Every year the beach gets smaller. This is why I asked Ms. Fellner if she could talk with the Army Corp of Engineers to see if they can find out why this happens. I've lived here 17 years, and the beach is smaller every year on the south end, while the beach on the north end appears to be getting wider. There would be no problem putting anything on the north side, because you have plenty of beach. The other problem I see here is the lifeguard stands are not as high as some of the beach tents. If they pull back so far, the lifeguard cannot see down his line of sight; it's obstructed by the tops of the tents. I believe we need to see if there is a process we can enter into to widen the beach on the south end. Mr. Courtney said I wanted to bring this issue forward, because the tents pose a safety issue. I asked the chief lifeguard to come to address council.

Mr. Stevens moved to suspend rules to allow Chief Hofmann and Mr. Bill Bigham, Beach Services, Ltd. (friendly amendment) to address Town Council. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Courtney asked Chief Hofmann how obstructions have damaged response times. Chief Hofmann said this issue has been ongoing for years. In 2013, the town was the last community along the beach that allowed tents. He said I've always been of the opinion that tents were good. They provide shade and sun protection for small children and elderly adults. However, I've spent some time on the beach over the past two years, and even went on the beach today. Some residents are here tonight that were on the beach today while I was checking it. The amount of sand real estate that's available on the south end of the beach right now is concerning from a public safety point of view. Last year it was bad. This year I'm worried. We bought a tent last year for one of our visitors, because the beach Gator tire caught the tie down pole and destroyed their tent when the team was responding to a call. Emergency response personnel are having to wind in and out among the tents to navigate the beach. Despite my previous opinion, I am concerned that we could be putting public safety at risk if we continue to allow tents at this time due to the condition of our beach. I've spent a lot of time thinking about this, and I feel pretty strongly about it.

Mr. Stevens said basically Chief Hofmann, you are saying the tents are causing problems for public safety. Chief Hofmann said yes. Mr. Stevens said safety comes first; a life is very important. I believe that. When I was a lifeguard, people just used umbrellas. Those with small children can use a tent that is about 3 feet by 3 feet to provide shade. I've seen the pictures that someone described as looking like a refugee camp; it does. The beaches are clean in Garden City. I don't see any benefit. If one of the reasons is public safety, I'm all for that. I want to protect our tourists, and children. God forbid that a child run out from a tent and gets hit by a Gator. Chief Hofmann said during high tide on the south end of the beach there might be between 20 and 25 feet of sand, if we're lucky. So during the busy summer it's a challenge.
Mayor Childs said my opinion is that we have been warned by the acting chief of police as well as
the chief lifeguard. If something happens and council does not take action, I think that this town would
be liable for anything that might happen, if we didn’t heed the warning of the experts.

Mr. Courtney said that the chief of lifeguards shared information with him, copies of which were
given to councilmembers. He said I was surprised to find that last summer Beach Services lifeguards
successfully found 31 missing children. Personnel had to navigate among the tents to find these children.
I’ve heard comments that parents should keep a better eye on their children. I don’t want to hear that. I
have two children. When we go on vacation, if you turn your head for one minute, if you’re not used to
the beach, the kids can get lost very easily. There are no easy landmarks like groins or jetties on our
beach. Once the kids take off, they don’t know which way they’re heading.

Mr. Stevens said it was previously said that some realty companies had advertised tents. I went
to several companies that rent in town for brochures and visited their websites. I didn’t see tents
mentioned in any of them. I think that statement was made in error or to influence a decision. He asked
Mr. Bigham how tents on the beach cause problems.

Mr. Bigham said when tents are placed on the beach they are placed side-by-side-by-side. When
several tents are joined together, there is no way to navigate between them. The only place emergency
vehicles can travel is either behind the tents or at the water line during low tide. At high tide, you can’t
navigate the beach at all. The reason all other beaches in the county banned tents was for public safety.
Tents take up too much room and congest the beach. Police, lifeguards, and emergency personnel
cannot do their jobs properly, because of the congestion caused by tents.

Mr. Ott said he thought about the photographs council was shown when he went to the beach at
high tide to try to imagine how emergency equipment and personnel would get on scene. He asked Chief
Hofmann if we needed an emergency lane. Chief Hofmann said the proposed ordinance includes an 8
foot lane by the dune line that would be kept clear of obstructions for emergency vehicles. Mr. Ott said
based on the beach width of about 20 feet at high tide, were people ever asked to clear a path for
emergency response calls. Chief Hofmann said the lane is used frequently during the summer season not
only for ocean rescues, but also for tourists being stung by stingrays or jelly fish bites, cardiac issues, etc.
It is crucial that utility vehicles have access to get the injured or sick off the beach and to EMS personnel
as quickly as possible. Obviously, taking gurneys on the sand and getting other equipment on the beach
is not practical. A path along the dune line will aid rescue response time for both the fire department and
EMS crews.

Mr. Courtney said he discussed the emergency lane at the dune line with Chief Hofmann. It is
less likely that children will play along the dune line, so the emergency lane can remain clear or be easily
cleared.

Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. MOTION
CARRIED.

Mr. Pellegrino said I do understand the issues on the south side; [the beach] is nonexistent
during high tide. I’ve received tons of email from people that want us to keep allowing tents. As I’ve said
from the start, I represent full time residents, and part time residents, and second homeowners, and
businesses. I would certainly agree with a tent ban on the south end, but I will not vote for a tent ban on
the entire beach.

Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, and Stevens voted in
favor. Councilmember Pellegrino voted against. MOTION CARRIED.
C. Resolution #17-179, Memorandum of Understanding with Pier Outfitters,
Administration Fellner. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #17-179 as presented. Mr. Courtney second. Ms. Fellner presented the resolution, a copy of which is on file. She explained that Pier Outfitters lease would expire this year, and based on Town Council’s directives at a previous meeting, negotiations were made with Mr. Kramer to extend the lease agreement one additional year, because the pier was damaged during Hurricane Matthew. The resolution represents the full agreement between the town and Pier Outfitters. Mr. Ott said he wanted everyone to know that [Mr. Kramer] was working with the town and we are also requesting that if the pier is completely shut down because of pier construction, he will have his rent prorated. Everybody needs to understand that. Mr. Stevens said everyone needs to understand that this lease only extends to December 31, 2018. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Planning Commission Appointment (1 Term Expiring). Volunteers: Mr. Al Lauer, Mr. John Dougherty, Mr. Paul Holder. Mr. Courtney moved to appoint Mr. Al Lauer to serve an additional four year term on the planning commission. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Mayor Childs said I would like to tell others that volunteered for the position that we do appreciate it, but Mr. Lauer is presently on the commission and has done a good job. We’d like to keep members on the board that have done a good job. For those of you who would like to get on these committees and boards, I do encourage you to keep trying. We look at all the volunteers that we get. So, thank you for trying.

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

A. Resolution to Change Meeting Times, Councilmember Courtney. Mr. Courtney said the resolution should actually be to change the meeting day to Monday for the meetings that conflict with the summer Hula shows and Beach Luau. Council CONCURRED to bring a resolution under business at the next meeting to change the meeting days to Monday.

B. Parking Committee Recommendations, Administrator Fellner. This matter deferred. See Agenda Item 3, Agenda Approval.

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

Mr. Stevens said I’ve been introduced to a man that said he will dispose of the town’s electronic waste for free. I know you’re all aware of the electronic waste codes. Over the last 23 months we’ve spent $15,496.41 on electronic wastes. He will pick it up and recycle it. Right now we pay a big corporation out of California to do it at a rate of $677 dollars per month. That doesn’t take long to add up. I’ll be glad to send the information to all of council and the administrator. It seems to me if we can get this done for free rather than paying out to some big corporation, it makes more sense. We may have spent more than that, but in less than two years, we’ve spent that much money. There’s an old saying, “cut a little here; cut a little there, and get spending down to where it needs to be.” We’re spending way too much money. We’re getting bids that are way too high. We’re spending too much on engineering. So anyway we can help the taxpayers save a dime, dimes add up to dollars. Dollars add up to hundreds of dollars. Hundreds of dollars add up to thousands of dollars. I want to bring this back to council, and I’ll send you all the information. I think it would behoove us to actually meet the guy; let him come to our budget meeting, and tell us what he can do. He said there is a possibility that through some of his vendors he may be able to get rid of some of our other recycling parts.

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

Mr. Gary White: I just want to say (**) I want to talk about the tents. I know they don’t have any room on the south side, but I don’t like the idea of doing the whole beach. (**) I still feel people should be allowed to have tents to protect themselves on the beach. (**) You put too many rules on
Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: I totally agree with Ms. Fellner, you can’t believe everything you read in the newspaper. But, I did read this story, and there’s an expression that you’re treated like a mushroom; you get a lot of horse manure, and kept in the dark. This just proves just how dark it is here. We just do not have transparency in this town. Somebody’s gotta be telling the people that are here that pay all these taxes what is going on in this town. We don’t know. You keep it away from us. Thank you.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I’d like to speak about the parking committee recommendations. We’ve spent years bringing up these recommendations. Some of them are very, very important. You deferred it again. The funny thing is that Ms. Fellner asked if I could come tonight, just in case you had any questions. Not only did I come tonight, so we can get this stuff done, I came this morning. Myself, I saw Mayor Childs, the clerk, but nobody else. Now, if you don’t like something on our recommendation, that’s fine. Let’s discuss it; vote on it, let’s get it going. We have very, very serious things going on. On Surfside Drive there are businesses that need some of these recommendations done. You’ve put it off again. It doesn’t make sense, folks. Some of these recommendations, I don’t even think they have to go before council, because it could be done by the administrator. I don’t get it. We spend a lot of time, lot of effort on these parking recommendations. Sometimes you don’t take ‘em. Sometimes you deny them, and then four years later you realize we were right and you put them in. But we spend a lot of time doing this. Defer it, table it, I don’t know what you did. But you spend a lot of time talking about firefighters. I’ve been in fire service. I used to be a volunteer fireman. I was a police officer. I’ve been in many fires. Chief says you need four people, you need four people. Not this shell game you’re playing. Oh, we have two county staff. They might be here, but they might not be here. You’re gonna have a fire and you’re gonna send two guys there and hope a couple of volunteers come out? Some of the guys that work in Horry County are volunteers, too. You’ve got volunteers down in Garden City. We spend a lot of money here, folks. We have a public works director get up every year and he asks for a new garbage truck. He needs another front end loader. You all say, yeah, yeah, whatever you want. Take it, [Mr. Adair], take it. It’s yours. He wants a laborer he didn’t need for six months, but he wants him for a year next year. The first reason was, well, we can’t find anybody who wants to work seasonal, part time. Bing! *(Speaker’s emphasis,)* Are you kidding me? And then, when that didn’t work, the next story is well, we really need him, because next year we have projects we’re gonna do. The man rolls out garbage cans. You’re putting your priorities wrong. You’re believing your directors; the game is this: I need two garbage trucks. So, I ask for three, and you guys give him three. It’s logic; it’s negotiation. You understand? You ask for one and you expect you’re gonna get, but you guys give every single thing they ask for. Thank you.

Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Surfside Drive got paved. I didn’t realize it was gonna get paved. We weren’t really all this aware Surfside Drive was gonna get paved, and it did. You had the money for it real quick, and you put in those curbs that by golly, as much as I’ve been driving a long time, I run into ‘em. There’s expensive. Oh, my God, I don’t like that paving job, and then you bought at some point, this town bought a historical property. I don’t see anybody really using that historical property, but you did have nice something there a couple of months ago, and that was very, very expensive. Me and Ralph moved here because we like the police department and we like the fire department. ISO1, and now you’re quibbling over two more firemen, which is a necessity to a maintain ISO1, not to mention necessity in case a life needs to be saved, which will eventually happen. We’re finding no money to pay for these fireman, but we’ve got money to buy big old historical property and pave a street where the even the people who live on it didn’t know it was getting paved till the last minute and those horrible curbs, and there is some waste in this town, and there is a lack of transparency, but where firemen are concerned, my God, just do it, because if you’ve got out of towners vacationing here and they die because of lack of firemen you’ve got law suit written all over you. So, please, consider the firemen. Be safe. Err on the side of safety and concern and drop some of these non-necessary items and go with the safety. Thank you.
Sherry Hortle, 1st Avenue North: There’s a lot of talk tonight about safety, and I agree with a lot of the comments that I’m hearing tonight. First of all, I’d like to thank the police department for all they do. I realize what a difficult and dangerous job it is, because I have a lot of family and friends in the police department ranks. One family member was shot in the chest during a drug bust. Luckily for him, his mother, who happened to be one of the first female officers to walk a beat in Philly, she called him that morning to remind him to wear his vest and it saved his life. He suffered a few cracked ribs, but he was able to return to work. My uncle wasn’t as lucky. He was shot in the face while trying to apprehend a robbery suspect. His injuries were permanent and career ending. So, if I sound passionate about training and education and us working to keep us safe, it’s because I know from personal experience. I mourned with my neighbors when an officer who was a policeman and the father of six young children was gunned down all because he was a police officer. I believe Blue Lives matter. While training, education, and experience may not adequately prepare our police and fire department personnel in every situation, it could be the difference between life and death. I bet it would’ve made a difference in the situation in the fire department that Ms. Fellner kept from us. The family of the man who died trusted the emergency personnel to try and save him; not to use him as a Guinea pig. The family of the teenage girl who performed CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) on him, when trained experienced personnel should have done it, they have to be furious. I can’t imagine how scarred this young girl must be. But equally deplorable is the fact that it was kept secret from the residents. Why? It makes me wonder if there was some sort of private payoff involved, because there were two people with lawsuits. Let’s be real. Why was former Fire Chief Anthony Fox relieved of his position? The article stated he wasn’t present during the incident. Now, don’t get me wrong. I believe that he should be held accountable for the actions of his staff, as much as Ms. Fellner should be for her former employees Tammy Gardner. Remember her? She embezzled nearly $50,000 of the town’s money over the course of three years. That was three years. Shouldn’t there have been some sort of audit procedures in place to prevent this from happening or at least to enable the town to discover the crime sooner? And, yes, it is a crime. Embezzlement is a crime, no matter how much she wants to (**). That crime was committed against the taxpayers in this town. There is so much secrecy in this town; opening bids behind closed doors to diverting questions about a $9,999 check written last December to the Clemson University Foundation. The Foundation is a charitable organization offering donor perks, did you know that? Like football and basketball tickets, but we’ve been told that it’s for landscaping design. So, let’s see the invoice, the contract, and the design plans. Then I might believe it is legitimate. I like this place. I really do. It’s beautiful and there’s a lot of good people here. I just think we deserve things like honesty, integrity, transparency, and confidence from our paid administrator and also from our elected officials. Is that too much to ask?

Holly Watson, Oak Drive, North: A few weeks ago I came in here to a workshop where you were studying whether or not to increase our water bills, because there had been a study from roughly a year and a half and you came up with some calculations about how all of us could pay another $25 or $30 a month for stormwater. You didn’t pass that, and I’m tickled to death you didn’t. But at that time I gave all of you a list of places to go for grants. It was over 800 areas and places to go and each area had more sub-areas within the 800 places to go for grants. It amazes me that every time we mention something about maybe needing two firefighters, or we need a swash wall built, or whatever the easy thing to do is go right back to the taxpayers and say well, we gotta raise taxes. We don’t have the money. If you have to add something then you have to cut services or we’re gonna have to raise your taxes. North Myrtle Beach, Conway, and all surrounding areas get millions and millions of dollars in grants. We don’t get anything. We’re not trying. Why do we consistently go back to the taxpayers and the businesses and say we’re gonna load it back on you? Why are we not getting our grants? Why are we not trying for them? Why don’t we even investigate them? I would love to come to a council meeting and have you inform us that we just obtained three or four million dollars worth of grants. Everybody else does it, why can’t we? If we’re going by what everybody else does, everybody else gets millions and millions of dollars in grants. What did you do with the list? The administrator has the list. Now the thing is I am confused about the money. If you can have a consensus to vote on an ordinance, why can’t you
have a consensus on a different item? All of a sudden we can't have consensus on this, but we can go ahead and vote on something. Something's not right there. (***) Explain that. Thank you.

Judy Kidd, 11th Avenue North: It’s my understanding that you’re operating under Robert’s Rules of Order. Under Robert’s Rules of Order, majority rules. If you have a quorum here, the majority votes. So tonight, the magic number was three, not four. Second, how many of you have ever been to the ER (emergency room) and had CPR administered by a 16 year old? When you call out EMS (emergency medical service) you expect to have qualified people, and if they are available, you want to have it administered by a qualified person. Not a 16 year old who is not supposed to be there after ten o’clock. Transparency, I don’t think they, she knows the definition of transparency. Second, or third, I would like to request a list of equipment that has been purchased over the last ten years, and the disposition of that major piece of equipment now. If it’s no longer in the town, I’d like to see the sale order. I’d like to see what the town recovered for it, and I’d like to see where the equipment is, because when we replace equipment on a regular schedule, then we need to have a list of equipment that (a) we have, (b) you’re gonna have it in storage, or we’ve disposed of it. If we’ve disposed of it, the taxpayer needs to know what was it paid for [sic]. Let’s go for transparency, and maybe some of you could learn Robert’s Rules of Order, because there were five of you here tonight, it only took three.

Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I attended the pier workshop and Ms. Fellner provided options for changing the footprint on the pier, such as adding a third business or public restrooms. But at the same time the town does not have a report from a structural engineer or any information from FEMA regarding how much of the pier they would actually cover. As residents, we can’t make any decision regarding the pier until we have that information available. So, I would request that once the information is available, that the town reschedule a workshop so that we can actually make an informed decision. We also were presented with a financial option for finance of the $250,000 out of every $1 million that FEMA would cover. So, I would also like to have financial options such as bonds or, God forbid, raising our taxes to pay for the pier. The other thing I would like to propose is a change to Ordinance Chapter 2, Article III, Division One, Section 2-18, Term of Mayor and Council. The period of four years needs to be changed to a limit of two consecutive terms. The last election proved that we have more than enough people who are qualified and willing to serve on council, so we need to give these people an opportunity by limiting the number of terms to help ensure new perspectives will always be available (***) objectivity on council. Thank you.

Carol Holt, Yaupon Drive North: I just want to take a few moments, I know it’s late, but just to thank the Town Council and Mayor for postponing the first reading of the landscaping and tree ordinance. It’s my understanding that workshop is going to be held next Tuesday, April 18th at five o’clock, not six o’clock. The workshop will give the town residents the opportunity to review the ordinance again and express any concerns they may still have with the revised document. The planning commission devoted many hours to rewriting the document, and their efforts were certainly appreciated. However, the time they spent is not a reason to automatically approve the ordinance, if the document still does not fully address the concerns expressed by town residents or the instructions from Town Council to the planning commission. A good example is the sign ordinance. How many hours and months were spent on that document before it was forwarded to Town Council for first reading? I think it’s better to spend the time now than have the same issues brought to Town Council again in five or six months. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Ott: Let me say one thing, I’ve been sitting in this seat for a year, and believe me, I’m always disappointed with things I find. I don’t like finding things in newspapers that happened in the town that should never happen. I believe we shouldn’t be wasting the town’s money and time looking for a police chief when we have one. It just doesn’t make any sense. I’m sure our attorney would do exactly as he is told. I’ve seen it many times. Again, I’ve been very disappointed in what I see. For the parking commission, I would like to see a show and tell. I could go with the Mayor (***) I didn’t understand a lot
of things; why we put signs down there. There's probably a logical answer why we want to remove them
or change 'em. I just needed more information, and I knew the Mayor was in consensus with me. I would
like to understand just a couple of things and just hold off on; there's a lot of things in that paper; just
hold off till we've got two or three and we understand it better. It will go through. We will make changes.

Why no grants? Well, that's a great question, isn't it? We just don't have time. We don't want to do it.

Too much work? I don't know, but I would love to hear the real reason why we don't do it, and it's
gonna be 'oh, we don't have anybody to do it.' The idea that I read in the paper, the one thing I couldn't
understand is why there was an underage volunteer there on a school night after ten o'clock (**). She's
out there with these, with this EMS wagon, and I'm sure she's not getting home till after twelve. Why did
that happen? I don't know. Has there been any regulations put in this place since? Probably not, because
everything's been hushed up. I just can't understand why that'd ever happen. As we look for; we don't
have all the matching funds for beach renourishment, and as the citizen said, we figured and this is
management, we knew beach renourishment was coming up and we bought, and we put in parking
spaces, like we needed parking spaces. We did on Surfside Drive. We could've waited and so we did the
right thing and had the money in place for beach renourishment. This council needs to look and see why
we're losing beach on the south end. This is very important, because I believe, if we let it go, we're just
going to have the dune and nothing else. That's all that's gonna be there. I don't go there on the south
end that often, but I just went down there and it's noticeably shallow. We should've managed; this was a
management problem. Why didn't we manage the funds? We bought a property with dying trees on it,
because we thought we needed it. I wasn't on council. I'm not making that as an excuse, but we have
somebody that's supposedly administrating this town, managing this town. Use the money properly and it
should've been, we should never not have the money for beach renourishment. Our main source of
income in this town is the beach. And we should not ever not have that money in place. Thank you for
coming out. I think a lot of people are disappointed. Thank you very much.

Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. Again, on the tent issue, there's a
reason why Horry County, Myrtle Beach, and North Myrtle Beach banned tents. You need a place to
access when there's an emergency so they can get there. Going on to grants, I'm all for grants. I've been
asking for that SAFER grant for almost a year now, and we're not getting anywhere with it. Going on to
the parking committee, it was three of the councilmembers that were not ready. They took a look; I
defferred it for a reason. I didn't table it. I deferred it. So, we can bring it back. We have some questions
that need to be answered. I'd like to get with Mr. Kohlmann when I get a chance, we can set up an
appointment, but we had some questions about it. Some of the problems with that was we're redoing 3rd
Avenue South to create more parking spots, before I start (**) putting more signs on Surfside Drive,
when want to get a whole picture of what was gonna go on with that. That's one of the reasons why we
need to speak with the parking committee. ALS versus BLS; basic life support versus advance life
support. When you call that ambulance, you expect to get ALS at your door; not BLS. BLS is second or
it's in the beginning and comes there, then ALS arrives. That's what you want at your door. If you're in
cardiac arrest, you don't want BLS there, you want ALS. I'll leave that alone. Again, we're making cuts,
okay. We're gonna make cuts in the right areas, where we need to make them, but not in services.
That'd be the last place we're making cuts. We'll be making a lot of cuts this year, but it's not gonna be in
services. Pier comments, I agree with the person who got up here and mentioned about the pier
comments. They're right. We never discussed where we're gonna get the money for it. We are going be
responsible a percentage of that. We're gonna have to come up with that money, so it has not been
discussed and it should be discussed. We haven't gotten anything back from the administrator yet on
where we stand with that. When we find out where we stand with [FEMA] we'll know where we stand
with the pier. That's all I have to say. Thank you very much. Have a good day.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thanks for coming. I'm fine also with staffing up the fire department, if that's
what our chief thinks he needs for $244,000 a year, but we need to find that money and take it out of
the budget. You can go back and look at the record, I voted no to 3rd Avenue South land purchase. I vote
no on all dump trucks. I vote no on all new trash trucks. So, go back and look at the record. There is a
lot of things that we've approved in the past that we don't necessarily need. But, we can probably find
that money, but we need to do that at budget meeting. We can’t just say we’re going to add. As far as
the investigation on this issue with the junior firefighter that came up, that was an issue that came up
some time ago, and there was an investigation done. We identified the root cause through the
investigation. We resolved the situation so it won’t happen again. (***) I would not think about talking
about that situation here on the dais as far as a transparency issue, because that’s not fair to the girl
involved, or the fire station. I’m not a lawyer. I don’t know what to say. I don’t know how to prevent a
lawsuit. How am I gonna express that to the public. I mean what do you think I am? This is ridiculous. If
there’s a statement to be made, it should be made by the town lawyer, because he knows what to say so
the town doesn’t get sued. I can’t apologize for not letting you know, because I wouldn’t know what to
say in a million years. I don’t even know what process to go through for that. That was an extensive
investigation. The root cause was found, and it was addressed, so it won’t happen again. It was screw-
up. It was a terrible mistake. It’s awful that it happened. But, it did, and the right follow up was done,
and it won’t happen again. As far as the meetings, I know some council people mentioned they are
disappointed. I’m disappointed, too. Literally, we sit up here and we flog our employees. We may as well
get stocks or whipping posts. I mean, I’m all for questioning and asking a couple of questions. But, we
interject guilt without facts very often. For some in the public, I truly appreciate that you come up with
very well thought out, very fact based statements. And then there’s other people who come up just with
supposition that’s based on absolutely no fact. So, from us up here and everyone here, we need to work
on that. We can go and say whatever you want, some people will believe it; some won’t. We need to try
to base stuff on facts. Lately, our level of respect towards other people all around us is at a minimum, in
my opinion. It’s frustrating me, but I just think that’s something we really need to work on, because
there’s absolutely no trust between anyone around here. Some of it’s warranted, I agree. Not all of it is.
That’s just something we really need to work on. Thank you very much for coming, have a great night.

Mr. Stevens: Ms. Watson mentioned grants, and that’s a good question. Why aren’t we going for
all the grants we can get? Why do we have to keep going to the taxpayers? That’s all they want to do is
raise the taxes. I vote against taxes every time. We need to use a little common sense, and look for ways
to cut our spending. We need to deal with our needs and not our wants. We have a big old piece of
property sitting over there at 3rd Avenue South. It’s got no trespassing [posted.] Guess who bought it?
You did. The taxpayers bought it and you can’t even go over there and sit on the property. It’s a shame.
There’s no transparency. I’ve seen it here. I’ve seen it in council meetings. I’ve seen it on the other side
where you are. There’s no transparency. We talk about, Mr. Kohlmann talked about; every time public
works comes up they want to buy a new gadget, buy new this, buy new that. Yet, we don’t want to add
a couple of firemen that might save a life. We don’t need a $500,000 garbage truck every three years.
(**) It’s ridiculous. We’ve gotta live: we’re living beyond our means, not within our means. I guarantee
you there’s not a lady out here that she looks at her checkbook every week and she tells her husband
you can’t spend that money. My wife tells me every day. I want to buy a new boat. She ain’t gonna let
me, because I want a boat, but I don’t need a boat. I’ve got friends who can take me. Surfside Drive,
what if we had taken that money and put it to beach renourishment? That would’ve been some good
money to spend towards beach renourishment. Then we have all these paved places and really, the only
thing I can see different is that when I set up a tent on Surfside Drive I set it in a parking space for a
festival. I’d like to see some benches over at the historical park. At least let the citizens use it instead of
no trespassing signs. At least you could go place bocce ball in this town. By the way, Roberts Rules of
Order, I remember when they voted to outlaw docks in this town. There were three people that didn’t
come to that meeting, but there were four people. They passed docks with four people. They could’ve
passed it with three, because four was a quorum. That gives you kind of an idea of what we have to look
at. We’ve got a pier, another pier workshop, and I hope that we do something on the pier. I think
somebody mentioned that we can get money for 1.4-percent. We should be able to get grants for the
pier. There’s a lot of things that I don’t agree with. I’ve basically been embarrassed by what’s been going
on in the paper the last couple of weeks. I’m asking myself what’s next. What are we gonna read next? I
hope it’s not gonna read anything else next, but I’m very disappointed. That’s what I can say. I’m very
disappointed that we, and I’ll tell you, I was the last councilmember to get that information. Mr.
Pellegrino might have gotten it before me, but I was the last one. I’m the low man on the totem pole
even though I’m sitting up here. Anyway, thank y’all for coming out. I’m glad that y’all get up here and speak, because if you don’t tell us what’s wrong, we won’t know. We don’t know everything. I’m sure there’s a lot of stuff out here we (**), I think that, I wish that all of y’all could come to the budget meeting, and tell us, hey, you can cut that out. You can cut this. You can cut that. Usually only two or three people show up for the budget meeting. So, I’m personally inviting y’all to the budget meeting. Come and tell us how to cut money on the 27th of April at 9:00 a.m. Thank y’all for coming and have a good week. Enjoy this great weather we’re having.

Mayor Childs said that was not true; the public would have an opportunity to speak.

Mayor Childs: Well, everybody has kind of hit on everything. I’m just going to say something about the pier. We have a bid for the engineer the 13th of this month. We hope to have the engineer’s report by mid-June to tell us exactly what we need to know. We don’t know the amount of money, because we don’t know exactly what we have to do. Until we find that out, we can’t put any dollars to it. Thank everybody for coming out.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.