1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris; Interim Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
   A. Invocation. Rev. David Pohto, Surfside First Baptist Church, gave the invocation.
   B. Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting April 11, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the April 11, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

   Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: Since I'm old, I don't member well. But, you can have this (showed a photograph of beach with umbrellas) beautiful beach, or you can have this (showed a photograph of beach filled with tents), a refugee camp. Folks, this is a no-brainer. We have already had the fire chief, the interim police chief, and the head of the lifeguards say we should not allow tents on the beach. They should be banned and banned now. Not next year. Why is a life that is threatened this year not worth as much as a life next year? The south end has practically no beach at high tide. How about thinking about the beachgoers and the townspeople and not about the realtors. Anyone not working, not voting for this ban beginning this year is either a fool or just ignorant of the facts. Thank you.

   Mr. Bill Kinkon, Dogwood Drive North: First of all, I want to thank you for your service. It is not an easy job, I can tell. I'm against the tent ban. I use a tent maybe four to eight times a year, not for me, but for my family that comes down here and don't have the suntan that I have, but yet they want to stay out all day. You can't do that without a tent. You can put up umbrellas, I understand that. But you can't put eight people under an umbrella. We've heard about safety issues. I stopped the officer that patrols the beach and asked him what issues we've had. For two years he says I don't know any issues we've had. He's the one I've seen on the beach for the last two years, so I asked him. I've heard that the lifeguards can't see. Well, yeah, that's probably good point, but you can't see under umbrellas either. Walk down to the campgrounds and see if you can see from one end to the other. You can't. Those umbrellas are in the way just as much as tents. The reason we can have tents is because we don't have the density. The reason they don't have tents in the County, Myrtle Beach, is because of the density. We don't have the high-rises here that put all these people in one place. So it's worked in the last couple years. I don't understand why we have to change it. I've heard the issue about getting equipment up and down the beach. Well, it's only an issue at high tide, and I know on the north side we have a wider beach. The last two years they've come by and asked people to move their tents forward. Not all of 'em. Just the ones that had set 'em back too far, because there is a new guideline. I heard about people coming from other areas than Surfside. That's an easy requirement. Put tags on our tents, and that way...
we can identify the tents that belong in Surfside. When they ask people to move tents they didn’t have a
bit of problems with the people. The only problems that I have seen, and I haven’t seen a problem, but
when it becomes an issue is at high tide. If you want to ban tents, then ban them an hour before high
tide and an hour after high tide. That way the equipment can get up and down, the lifeguards can see
and we can still use our tents. Again, the only reason we’ve been able to is because we don’t have the
density. (Time ended.) Thank you very much.

Mr. Larry McKeen, 6th Avenue South: I’d like to speak about the tents, also. I assure you I am
not a fool. The previous speaker made a lot of good points, I’m gonna skip over some of them that are
duplicated. You all received an email form me, and most of you read it. I know, because you answered it.
I appreciate that. One thing about safety that people haven’t mentioned is that umbrellas are probably
more unsafe than tents. Have you seen a tent blow down the beach during the day? I see umbrellas
blowing down the beach often. You don’t want to be hit by one of those things. That’s potentially a really
serious injury. The other point was about the 8 foot safety lane at the dunes. Well, right now you don’t
know where the dunes are because they don’t exist. Can you imagine on the south end, you take 8 feet
away from high tide, you don’t have a beach to use four hours a day. Basically, or two hours a day one,
[because one] high tide is gonna be at night. A couple of other things, I read through the ordinance. It is
poorly written. You talk about shading devices in this ordinance. They can’t be on the beach from 7:30
p.m. to 9:00 a.m. People start going to the beach at 8:00 a.m. It says if they are left unattended, with no
definition about what that means, they will be disposed of and you could be fined. Well, who’s gonna
dispose of them and what is that unattended? Sometimes when I’m down at the beach, I walk from pier
to pier and back. That takes an hour and a half. Is my stuff gonna be thrown out? Am I gonna get a
ticket for leaving a stuff unattended on the beach? Unanswered. The other thing is shading devices have
to be 10 feet apart in all directions. You’ve got one tent and you’ve got a large family. You gonna put a
little bit of your family over there, and a little bit of your family over here. It doesn’t make any sense.
When my family is here I have three umbrellas that we put in a row. I don’t see how that’s gonna
obstruct vision any worse than a tent. I mean that tents won’t be any worse than the umbrellas will, so
you might as well ban the umbrellas, too. So basically I hope you all will vote against this. I know some
of you won’t. I know some of you will. I hope the majority votes against this ban. Thank you.

Ms. Wanda Spannuth, Harbor Lights Drive: I guess the first question and I know nobody can
answer it, who is going to enforce the ban? The lifeguards are not going to do it. They have a hard time
watching the water to begin with. My second is our emergency personnel have said that tents are
dangerous for the beach. So I just asked that you consider the consequences, if an emergency vehicle
cannot get to somebody in the water. Thank you.

Mr. Billy Turner, 4th Avenue North: Good evening, everyone. I own a business over on Surfside
Drive. I would echo the two gentlemen prior to me, and one thing that I’d say to the gentleman that had
the pictures, if you look at the pictures, you have one that has hardly anyone on the beach. I don’t think
anyone wants that, and the other one is taken looking down the beach. There could be two or three
tents, or as you call ‘em, they’re not tents, they’re canopies. It appears that the beach is full of ‘em. I’ve
been coming in here since 1968. I was stationed at the airbase here before I was deployed to Vietnam. I
came back and I’ve been vacationing here since I bought a house here down in the area about 15 years
ago. I was fortunate enough to be able to buy one over here on 4th Avenue several years ago and then I
opened up my business. I think this is twofold. We’re not kind of hitting on one thing. This is called the
Family Beach. We want to continue to be called the Family Beach and with that comes people, with
people comes business. I pay a lot of taxes here, and if we don’t have the clientele coming in, [revenue
from] taxes are gonna go down. The income is gonna go down. I think we need to look at that aspect of
it, as well. I just recently was diagnosed with skin cancer. I had a pretty good chunk of my leg. I came
here for the beach. I can’t go to the beach without shade. An umbrella does not provide me with that
shade. I have a canopy and can sit under that and I feel like I’m gonna be covered. Not only that, my
family would be covered, as well. I think that also has to be taken into consideration. I don’t want to be
prevented from being able to do what I bought my house here basically for, [which] was to use beach.
This ordinance if it’s enacted will prevent me from doing that I don’t think that’s fair at all. Ms. Samples asked if Mr. Turner could please be recognized for his service. Mayor Childs said thank you Mr. Turner for your military service. I know him from back home. (Applause)

Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North: What I want to talk about is our vote tonight on re-approving DDC engineers versus Thomas and Hutton, who was the second choice. If you’ve been to any council meetings since June of last year, you’ve heard me speak about things that have come up about DDC and their engineering, like doubling the cost of swashes, and giving us a quotation on a proposal and then not honoring it, and change orders before the jobs even start, change orders 30-percent of what the job is, and so forth and so on. I would like for you to vote no, and I would like for you to award it to the second bidder, Thomas and Hutton, and I’ll tell you why. Thomas and Hutton has been in business since 1949, 68 years ago. They only have six lawsuit entries in Horry County, and three of those have been dismissed. They've been in business 38 years longer than DDC. DDC, however has 52 lawsuit entries total. There’s 45 lawsuit entries in Horry County. There are six in Georgetown, and one in Marion County. So that tells you right there we got a problem or they have a problem. Somebody's got a problem with their work. I think we deserve a more reputable, more sophisticated or competent engineering firm than what we’ve been getting. I would suggest to you that I would like a poll vote when you vote on this to understand why the ones who are voting for this particular engineering firm over the top of another one tonight, and I do have the Judicial Circuit Public Indexes [sic] here for you to review. I’ll give each one of you a copy. Please make the record known that they were given these in order to make a competent decision. My second request is that you remove the ability from the public works director to sign millions of dollars of these contracts. I understand that’s the administrator’s job. She is supposed to be up on the law and how to do procurement. She has access to the town attorney and I am very worried that our public works director does not have that education level, nor is he that familiar with town code, state code, and federal law. So I would like for you to also remove that ability from a director to sign multimillion dollar contracts, since they are not familiar with those particular rules. Thank you and here is your paper work.

Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: I’ve read as much as I can on this tent, canopy actually is what it is. I think that it is a problem. I’ve been out there on the beach when we had a beach on the south end. They are big obstacles, and you cannot see down the beach. You put your chairs out to sit in the sun, walk the beach a little bit, and when you come back two canopies up right in front of you blocking what sun you were gonna be getting. I think it should be enacted. I think it should be enacted now, not next year, and I feel that you’re actually failing the community if you don’t enact it. Thank you.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Coast Rapid Transit Authority, Mr. Brian Piascik, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Piascik introduced himself to Town Council and briefly explained some plans for the authority, which in the short term includes placing signage as early as this summer to mark bus stops. Currently busses use the ‘wave’ system, and drivers sometimes miss seeing customers. Mr. Piascik said he would attend the budget workshop on Thursday and asked that in the meanwhile councilmembers consider a small amount of funding for the authority.

B. Proclamation and Donation Presentations.

i. Proclamation #17-114 Surfside Christian Church, Supervisor Ellis. Ms. Ellis read the proclamation as Mayor Childs presented it to Senior Minister Matt Thompson and thanked the church for its participation in the Easter Egg Hunt and Kids Fair, and for its continued support of the town. (Applause)

ii. Donation Presentations, Senior Minister Matt Thompson, Surfside Christian Church. Minister Thompson presented $250 checks to both the Champion Autism Network, and the Fidelis charity. He explained that his son is autistic and these charities are very precious to his family and him. (Applause)
B. Department Reports.

i. Events. Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms. Ellis asked Town Council for consensus to move the Easter Egg Hunt and the Kids Fair back to the Huckabee Complex. There were almost 1,500 people, children and adults, at the Passive Park for this year’s event. It was total chaos. Small children were knocked down; older children got two treat bags, and some children did not get one. Moving the event would enable her to separate the children into three age groups so it would not be so chaotic. The event could be controlled by admissions at the gate.

Mayor Childs said I was there with Ms. Ellis. It was a chaotic situation. I would hope that Ms. Ellis would maybe give some consideration in dropping the age a little bit. I think I saw two or three [really older looking kids] mowing their way through to get the eggs. They were big kids. We could recruit them for football. (Laughter) I would hope we’d look into that because the little kids were getting trampled.

Mr. Stevens said I was there. I saw parents running over the kids. That’s really bad. I would like to see it possibly set up so parents cannot accompany their children into that area where they are searching for Easter Eggs. Ms. Ellis said if the event is at Huckabee parents are only allowed on the field to help the 4 year old and younger children. The other two fields for ages 5 through 10 will have staff on the field for assistance. No parents are allowed on the fields for those ages. Mr. Stevens said I agree with the request.

Mr. Johnson said I wholeheartedly agree. I, too, was there, and my youngest grandson was there and freaked out, because it was a mass mob of kids of all ages. [When I saw some of the kids, I thought] dang, are you driving yet? Yes, I totally agree. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Ellis for everything she does for our town.

Mr. Pellegrino said it got kind of chaotic. My 5 year old was in the mix there. He did fine, but I understand, we have the other side of Passive Park there in front of the dog park that we didn't use. He asked if that was considered. I know if you want to go no parents, you really have to do it in a fenced area so kids don't run off. I understand that part about Huckabee. Ms. Ellis said you could use the other part of the park, but, the 8 to 10 year old children will go down there. It doesn't matter; I had signs out identifying the age groups. I had to hide behind the tree for the start, because the kids almost ran over me.

Mayor Childs called for consensus.

Ms. Samples said absolutely, and asked Ms. Ellis how long she has been doing this. Ms. Ellis said 20 years. Ms. Samples said you know exactly what to do and how to do it. Huckabee is a resource that we should use, so I support it 100%.

Mayor Childs said so you have a consensus of council.

Mr. Courtney asked if there is an age restriction on the event. Ms. Ellis said currently it is 10 years old and younger. Mr. Courtney said my 10-year-old and I drove by. She said just keep going. She was more interested in the iPad and getting back home. You did a good job on it and I have to say you had your hands full. I agree with this.

Ms. Ellis said thank you very much. Council CONCURRED to move the Easter Egg Hunt and Kids Fair to Huckabee Complex.
ii. Finance. Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. She explained that payroll will be high this month, because there are three pay periods. The pier is closed, so the only revenue from the pier is parking revenue.

Ms. Samples asked why lake maintenance is in the capital projects fund. That could be a decision that was made before I was seated, but could you find out why that is, and get back to me before the budget workshop on Thursday. I would appreciate it. Ms. King said she would contact Mr. Adair and make sure the answer was provided. She said basically, it was to keep spraying the lakes, and to keep the fountains going, all of which is part of stormwater. Ms. Samples said I understand lake maintenance, what I don't understand is why it is in capital projects. Ms. King thought it might be included in the stormwater projects fund, but she would find out.

Mr. Courtney said FEMA reimbursement was $500,000; is that correct? Ms. King said I believe it's $397,000 so far. Mr. Courtney asked if $397,000 was spent for Hurricane Matthew. Ms. King said yes, absolutely.

iii. Fire. Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. The fire department was awarded a grant from Firehouse Subs in the amount of $8,049.24, which will cover the entire cost of new pagers that were already purchased. At the last meeting, I was asked how much it would cost to add six additional career personnel. At that time, I estimated around $250,000. After checking some other factors, it will cost about $300,000 a year for six additional firefighters. I realize the amount seems high, but I wanted to give you the most accurate number possible for budgeting.

Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for getting the facts and the actual answer, I appreciate that.

Mr. Courtney asked if the $300,000 including the initial training or was it for training thereafter. Chief Otte said that's the initial training. We have to think that we may get people who come in and have to go for training. Sometimes training can last up to a year, depending on the certifications required. Mr. Courtney asked if the Safer Grant was awarded, we would not include the training course. Chief Otte said the Safer Grant costs are all included. Mr. Courtney asked for the amount without the initial training and two years of salary. Chief Otte said I can certainly get an idea of what that would be. Bear in mind that the Safer Grant timeframe changes. I talked to the National Fire Academy and Firefighters Grant Program to verify dates for the Safer Grant timeframe, which closed in February this year. The Academy can't give us an exact date the grant will be available next year, but it will be opened again. Mr. Courtney reiterated his request for the cost for two years using the Safer Grant. Chief Otte said the Safer Grant will supply 75-percent of the cost for the first two years; that drops to 35-percent the third year, and the fourth year is completely at the town's expense. Mr. Courtney said that's the figure I'm looking for. Thank you so much.

iv. Planning, Building & Zoning. Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. The sign ordinance went into effect April 12. It is very early, but we have heard nothing but positive responses. Council will receive another update in six months. The general manager from Harbor Freight Tools called today and said the company will be locating in Surfside Beach at the old Camping Connection building. Harbor Freight Tools is a discount tool and equipment retailer. The goal is to have a grand opening on or around July 4th.

Ms. Samples asked if the building being discussed at the construction board of appeals meeting was commercial. Ms. Morris said yes, it is a commercial abandoned building.

Mr. Stevens said thank you for the tree ordinance workshop. I know there were some people that had problems following it, but I did not have any problem whatsoever following the thing. I noticed some of the people got up and said it was confusing. But you gave us one copy, and then you gave us another copy. I was able to look at both copies, and while you were going over it, I thought you did a very fine
Mr. Johnson said I know exactly where Harbor Freight is going in. That's one of those strange boundary lines. I appreciate your report. It's very extensive, and very well done.

Mr. Courtney said I appreciate your report. It's very detailed and thorough. I see that we have a lot of code enforcement violations. I see that your office is very busy. Has there been any improvement in the commercial district in our town? I don't see any activities as far as improvement. Ms. Morris said no, the code enforcement officer sent several letters. Actually, he is on the second-round of letters. We tried to work with the commercial, as well as residential, but it's getting to the point that where we have had to issue summonses and we will be issuing additional summonses. Mr. Courtney said I'm talking about the vacant buildings that we have on the commercial strip. I'm very concerned that we have no body occupying those buildings. Is there anything that you can think of as to why we're not getting these businesses in compared to Garden City? Ms. Morris said well, we've asked the planning commission to look at the overlay district on both ends of Surfside Beach and surrounding area at the next meeting. We have a breakdown of what our ordinance allows and requires compared to Horry County. I think that has a lot to do with it. Mr. Courtney said as you know Garden City is really doing well right now. The commercial business is just booming there. So I'm very concerned as I have been in the past about our business district. Ms. Morris said I agree. It's definitely something we need to look at.

v. Police. Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereeto. He noted that data comparison was for the months of March 2016 and March 2017, and apologized for the scrivener's error. On March 7, 2017 Surfside Beach Police Department recognized Officer Kimberly Decker as Employee of the Year 2016. (Officer Decker was on guard at the meeting. Applause)

Mr. Ott said thank you for your report. It is very informative. I actually enjoyed reading through it. Thank you for not taking no for an answer, and resubmitting for that grant. I don't know if the citations and the moving violations have any correlation to the accidents, but the accidents in town have dropped significantly this month. I thank you very much for that.

Mr. Pellegrino referred to the 503(C)(3) corporation that was created to get donations to pay for K9 Viking and K9 Biko, and asked if the corporation was paying their entire cost. Chief Hofmann said the Surfside Beach K9 Association is not a 501(C)(3) organization, but it is a registered nonprofit organization. The members are considering incorporation as a 501(C)(3). The association has raised funds. The police department initially asked for canine vehicle in the upcoming budget. That's request will not move forward, but the association was prepared to pay $5,000 to offset the cost of that vehicle. Presently, and in lieu of that they are prepared to make donations to replace the heat alarms in the existing vehicles. If you review the K9 expenses, I think you'll see that our K9 officers are very responsible; take very good care of the dogs, and actually were well below budget. The association was never intended to fully fund all canine expenses, but to help offset some expenses. The association would actually like to make presentation to council in a meeting to answer those questions. The association is a not Police Department program, and we are careful to keep those two functions separate. I hate to answer on behalf of the association. I will assure you that they have raised money; they have those funds, and they are prepared to assist to offset the cost of the K9 program.

Mr. Courtney said thank you very much for the traffic data on speeding. You can see that the police officers are out there doing numerous stops. When I come through at night, the blue lights are on. The cars are being stopped. I am very impressed with the activity that's going on. We do have a speeding problem in town. My question to you is on these cars stops, are you finding them to be residents or is it through traffic? Chief Hofmann said that's really good question. I think that it's probably a fair combination of both. I would say that probably during our peak season that number probably
changes over and it is more likely to visitors who don't know how important it is to slow down on our streets. Mr. Courtney said in my community we get a lot of complaints of the speeding vehicles in the residential area. I see that the enforcement is good. I see the department wrote 268 warnings. I hope that is a message to these people to slow down. The police officers are using their discretion and using [good] judgment. As you know, we had another accident where a young pregnant girl was broadsided on Poplar and 16th. We need to slow down, the people need to stop at the stop signs. I'm very impressed that they're out there working. Another question is have we lost any officers in the last three months.

Chief Hofmann replied no. Mr. Courtney said fantastic. Chief Hofmann said one of our communications officers resigned last Friday to go to a job in the private sector. We have not lost any police officers, other than Chief Keziah. Mr. Courtney said so we have one in the police academy now. Chief Hofmann said he graduated [April 14th], and is now in field training. Mr. Courtney asked if there were plans for adding more officers. Chief Hofmann said we will not be asking for any additional positions. Obviously, the police chief position will remain vacant until permanent police chief is selected. Mr. Courtney said I'd like to thank you for the grant work that you've doing. I can see positive activity, and you're looking for grants. That's what we like to see. I'm very impressed. Thank you and your staff for doing a good job. Outstanding to your officers. Thank you,

Mr. Stevens said we have the two bike events coming up. Can you give us an idea of what you will be doing during those events? Chief Hofmann said yes, we are prepared. Our plans will be pretty much the same as last year. We have lined up ten additional officers to come into town from state agencies to assist us. As in previous years, every single town police officer will be on duty during Memorial Day weekend, and also at least on the weekends during Bike Week. Everything is set in place. The traffic loop is set and confirmed. I've been to all the meetings related to the bike events that are going during Memorial Day. I believe that everything is in place. We have a good plan to keep everything under control. We want to encourage citizens to be involved, if they see something or have a particular complaint or problem in their neighborhood that were not aware, we encourage them to call the police department non-emergency number 843.913.6368 to let us know those hotspots. They can rest assured that we will give them any attention that's needed. Mr. Stevens said thank you very much. Let's hope you get that permanent position.

vi. Public Works. Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. The last FEMA reimbursement request in the amount of $123,072 was submitted today for Category G. If that request is approved, we will receive 75-percent reimbursement. That will be an additional $92,304. After this submission, the pier is the only open worksheet.

Mr. Courtney said thank you very much for the work they did on the 13th Avenue crossover, and the other crossovers. Thank your staff for their work on those walkovers. It does show and I was impressed with it. How long before it will be opened? Mr. Adair said they should be done by tomorrow.

Ms. Samples facetiously said Mr. Adair, you don't have enough to do, and then said in earnest, your guys are always out working so hard. Thank you so much. I appreciate that. There is a horrendous odor around the pump station on Dogwood between 4th and 5th. I've heard a number of complaints about it. Do you have any idea what's happening? Mr. Adair said no, but I called the chief engineer at Grand Strand Water and Sewer about that very subject. As soon as I hear from him, I will email it to everybody. Ms. Samples said thank you so much.

Mr. Stevens said I probably should have asked Ms. Ellis about the July 4th fireworks. Have any plans been made for the fireworks show? Ms. Ellis said the fireworks company gave us two options. Shoot fireworks off flatbed trailer on the beach. I can't find any trucking company within 9,000 miles of us that would let me put a flatbed on the beach in saltwater. The other option is if an engineer says it is okay to shoot them off the pier, we can have just a small show. Mr. Ellis said Chief Otte and she have talked about it for a while, and would make a decision tomorrow. The answer is probably going to no, there won't be a fireworks show this year, because there is no location from which they can be safely
launched. We will still have the show and the band, and all the other activities. I haven't given up, yet.

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

Mr. Ott said thank you for your report. Are you still in touch with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding to beach nourishment? There is a problem in the south end of our beach. Have you had a chance to speak to anybody about that? Ms. Fellner said the issue is not just in town. It's actually with the whole Grand Strand, which is shaped like bowl. What's in the center, which is Myrtle Beach, loses the least amount. The further out you go on either side, the more sand you lose, meaning southward towards Garden City, Georgetown, and they lose the absolute most sand, and on the north, North Myrtle Beach. That's why we lose more sand on the south end than we do on the north. A lot of sand that Garden City loses and North Myrtle Beach loses ends up in Myrtle Beach. That's just the reality of it. Mr. Ott said if you stand at 13th Avenue South you can see where the sand begins eroding at around 8th Avenue South. It tucks in sharply, on like a 20-degree angle all the way down to Melody Lane. When go a little further, it starts coming back out again. It looks like it's been getting worse every year. I just want to address it before we have no beach there. Ms. Fellner said the Army Corp is an expert in this. They've been nourishing our beach for what I think is the third time for the different reaches. They're very aware of the shape issue. So I'm sure they're going to take every precaution. I know it's something that I discussed with the project coordinator myself. Mr. Ott said thank you.

Mr. Stevens said I recently spoke with the House District 106 Representative Russell Fry. We have a piece of property on 3rd Avenue South and Willow Drive that is not being used. I asked him if there was Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) grant money for that. Mr. Fry told him there definitely is, all we have to do is apply for it. Could you tell me why we haven't applied? Ms. Fellner said I absolutely can. If council is desirous of removing the encumbrance off all or part of the Huckabee property, we have to have land of equal value to encumber. You cannot have any plans for the replacement property, nor can it have any kind of recreational grants or money. You cannot even have a rendering made for that property. Otherwise, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) will not allow you to use that property to transfer the encumbrance upon. That is the specific reason that has not been done. Ms. Fellner said she spoke with both PARD and LWCF, both agencies told her there was no way an encumbrance could be transferred if any plans were made for using the property for recreation. Mr. Stevens said he needed clarification. Mayor Childs suggested that Ms. Fellner send an email message to Mr. Stevens with the explanation. Ms. Fellner said she had no problem doing that. Mayor Childs asked her to send the explanation to all councilmembers.

Mr. Courtney said thank you very much for your report. I also want to thank your staff for their hard work that they've done getting us ready for spring. I saw that Georgetown received a grant for their crossovers in Garden City. Having seen the new crossovers, I wondered where the funds came from. Ms. Fellner said I will look into that. Mr. Courtney said thank you and said when we were on the beach and we were looking down on 13 South and other areas of the beach to see where the mean high tide was, and to see the damage from Hurricane Matthew, we noticed that private crossovers extended pretty far over onto our beach. Back in workshops about the pier, we asked about extending our pier [boardwalk,] from the River City Café to the hotel. There were some concerns from you that that may not be possible. Could you also look into that? Ms. Fellner said that would be something that will be input for the design engineer, because there have been a lot of ideas discussed. That's absolutely something that I've heard council talk about on a couple of occasions. Typically when a preliminary design is you done, you get a ‘what you had bare-bones’ design; a design somewhere in the middle, and a design with all the bells and whistles, which would include something like the boardwalk. The town has to look at the reality of what we're going to have to pay for this, and what are we willing to do for that with regard to funding. So the answer is yes, but that's going to come when the design portion of this begins. Mr. Courtney asked if the private crossovers the regulated by the town, the state or the feds. Mr. Adair said the private walkovers are regulated by OCRM. Their rules are that the stairs cannot extend past the toe of the primary dune.
However, since most of the primary dunes are gone now, they seem like to stick it out like sore thumbs. I anticipate when the new sand fencing after renourishment, the dunes will be reestablished in those areas, and it will look normal again. Mr. Courtney said thank you so much.

7. BUSINESS

A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0842, Obstructions on the Beach, Administrator Fellner. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #17-0842 as amended on the draft provided in the Town Council packages, and also adopt an amendment to prohibit tents at any time beginning immediately between 8th Avenue South and Melody Lanes. Mr. Ott second. The decision paper and ordinance copies are on file.

Mr. Johnson asked where the restriction from 8th Avenue South to Melody Lane was in the draft. Mayor Childs said that was an additional amendment from Mr. Courtney that was not included in the draft. Mr. Johnson moved to suspend the rules to allow discussion. Mr. Ott second. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Johnson restated his question that he did not see the amendment to ban tents or canopies from 8th South to Melody Lane. Mayor Childs said that was part of Mr. Courtney’s motion, which was properly made. Ms. Samples said that’s a new amendment we don’t know about, Mr. Johnson. That’s something new. Mayor Childs said most amendments offered from the dais are new, as this one is. Mr. Johnson said well, I have respect for my fellow councilmembers. I would just think they would respect me and fellow councilmembers enough to bring us those amendments prior to tonight, because we received these in our package; not banning the tents from 8th Avenue to Melody Lane. Mayor Childs said that amendment could come up after a portion of that motion was read and it would be the same thing. Council is not required to submit their amendments prior to a motion. Ms. Samples said maybe it would be helpful if we had explanation behind the amendment. Mayor Childs said that is certainly in order.

Mr. Courtney said the new amendment was due to the lack of beach sand during mean high tide between 8th Avenue South and Melody Lane, which is pretty much nonexistent during mean high tide. To put tents in that area this season would be definitely be a safety issue. We spoke with the chief lifeguard, and there is actually no room for tents in that area.

Mr. Ott said I talked with Mr. Johnson because that’s what I was asking Ms. Fellner about. There’s actually no beach at some times. At the high tide the water is up to the dune line. Even when it goes back, around 15th Avenue South there is probably only 40 feet of beach in that area even at low tide. It’s shocking to see. I think what we could have done was get everybody together and go down and look at the beach; actually see it. Mr. Johnson asked if they would feel the same way if we started renourishment in September and we added 50 feet to the shoreline on the south end. Mr. Ott said that is what I would like to see.

Mr. Stevens said if I’m correct, what Mr. Courtney is saying is that he’s amending this ordinance to ban tents from 8th Avenue South to Melody Lane, where we have the least amount of beach in the whole town of Surfside. Mr. Courtney said right. Mr. Stevens said the primary reason that you’re doing this is because the beach in that area at high tide is basically no beach at all. Mr. Courtney said absolutely none, sir. Mr. Stevens said okay, so that pretty much clarifies it. So, tents would be allowed from 8th Avenue South to Ocean Lakes Campground, so basically we’re banning tents now in a small portion of town.

Mr. Johnson asked what timeframe that would be? Mayor Childs said from now until the January 1st, 2018 and at that time all tents are prohibited. Mr. Johnson disagreed and said that was not a small portion of the town. This area is pretty much one-third of the town, in his opinion.

Ms. Samples said what that means is that anybody who wants to put a tent from 8th Avenue
South to Melody Lane will just pile on 8th Avenue and northwards. So we’ll just have more tents this
summer from 8th Avenue South northwards. Mayor Childs said yes. Ms. Samples asked how we were
going to delineate that area. Would a line be put up, or a flag? What would be done to enforce that?
Draw a line in the sand? Is that the plan of attack? Mr. Courtney said signage would be posted. Ms.
Samples said we’re going to post signage at 8th Avenue South saying no tents beyond this point. Mr. Ott
said signs would have to be in every place. Ms. Samples said I would say that’s going to be a concern,
and so who is going to enforce that? Mr. Courtney said our police department. Ms. Samples said our
police department is going to be out on the sand enforcing tents. Mr. Courtney said we do have
ambassadors. Ms. Samples asked Chief Hofmann if the town’s beach services officers that use the four
wheelers provide enforcement on the beach. Chief Hofmann said the beach services officers are not
sworn. The can be sworn to enforce ordinances, if that is the desire of Town Council. Ms. Samples said
currently they cannot enforce, and they certainly don’t write tickets or citation. Chief Hofmann said they
do not at this time. Their main goal is to educate the public. When enforcement needs to be done, they’ll
make a call to the beach patrol officer who would respond and take appropriate enforcement action. Ms.
Samples said let me say at this moment that they do an amazing job. They are true ambassadors for our
town and I would like to see more out there, and at nighttime, too, but that’s another discussion.
Thank you.

Mr. Ott said I believe with the lack of beach that I saw, the Lord himself is going to enforce that
because there’s gonna be water in your tent. Ms. Samples said sure, and my debate to that is if there no
room on the sand, they’re not gonna put up a tent anyway, because there is no room. Mr. Ott said
exactly. Ms. Samples said it’s a shame we have to legislate that especially when we have all heard from a
multitude of people disappointed and upset about the fact that they’ve already spent thousands of dollars
coming to the beach this summer, and we are going to legislate a change which is going to impact their
vacation. I think that’s unfortunate, and welcome to the Town of Surfside Beach and welcome to your
beach vacation. Having said that I don’t support a tent ban. I haven’t supported a tent ban, and I
certainly don’t support implementing it now. I mentioned before that we were doing it at the 11th hour. I
think it’s unfair. I just think it sends a sad message. I am not going to support the measure, and certainly
I’m not going to support prohibiting tents immediately. Mr. Ott said I agree with you, but as I said when
there’s no beach, it’s unfortunate, maybe we should have looked at it last year, too, and seen it before
today. Then that wouldn’t be our fault because its nature; there is no beach there. That’s what I say.
That’s the only part that I agree with because there is no beach; you can’t put anything there. You’re not
even going to be able to put an umbrella down there. Ms. Samples asked Mr. Ott for clarification on the
part he disagreed with. Mr. Ott said I do disagree: we have to have that at this time.

Mr. Courtney said after first reading the Council was aware of this, and councilmembers had the
option of going down to look at the mean high tides. After myself and I’m sure others have on council
gone down and seen that at a mean high tide to have people set up tents would be a disaster waiting to
appear. We were all sent an email from our chief of lifeguards. It was in his personal and professional
opinion that he strongly urged Council to pass this solely based in the interest of public safety, and the
possibility of liability issues that may come up to the lack a delay in response time during an emergency
situation. As far as the enforcing part, we have ordinances on the beach now. If we have ambassadors
on the beach just to welcome the people, I just don’t see that point. They are there to enforce
regulations. I know lifeguards recommend to people to tents back as they move their chairs with the tide.
So if they’re enforcing that they would have a say as far as asking them to move these tents and that’s
not the case, then the police would dispatch an ambassador or a police officer to have them move. But to
have tents in that area during a mean high tide, as you know the tide changes. As we know it comes all
the way up to the dunes that we don’t even have. It’s going to be a disaster for them.

Mr. Pellegrino said yes, regardless of what happens this summer, this ordinance calls for the
banning of all tents as of January 1st, which is something I can’t support. We heard from citizens about
two different public safety issues possibly hindering rescue, but also exposure to the sun for kids and
adults alike. You can go anyway you want to justify this from public safety issue. If a car parked in front
of a fire hydrant, is that going to stop the fire department from putting the fire out? I don't think so. They
can clear a way and get on the beach. It's also a competitive advantage for Surfside Beach. Whether you
like it or not. I don't know how many emails I received some saying they support the ban, but a huge
number asking us not to ban tents. The majority of them were tourists who come here year after year
and appreciate the fact that they can have a tent for their family. You know what? They come to Surfside
because were the only ones who allow [tents.] I don't care what you say about it, but that's a fact. And
like it or not, the tourists, the second homeowners, [and] the businesses pay the majority of our taxes.
That's why our taxes are low. That is just fact. As I say all the time, I represent full and part-time
residents, second homeowners, businesses and tourists. I got a lot more feedback from people on this
one asking not to ban, and I fully agree. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session. Second Mr. Ott. All voted in favor. **MOTION
CARRIED.**

Mayor Childs called for the vote. Mr. Johnson called point of order saying there was no vote on
the amendment. Mayor Childs explained that the amendment was part of the primary motion. Mayor
Childs said once again the question is on second reading or Ordinance #17-0842. Mayor Childs, Mayor
Pro Tempore, and Councilmembers Courtney and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmembers Johnson,
Pellegrino and Samples voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0843 to amend the FY2016-2017 Municipal Budget,**
**Director King.** Ms. King presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. This
ordinance takes the unbudgeted revenue and transfers it into the correct fund. It is very important to
know how much money we have in the respective funds to start with for the next fiscal year. She
explained the amounts are best estimates.

**Accommodations Tax Fund.** The accommodations tax committee recommended that we take
$75,000 from last year's fund balance in accommodation taxes and put it towards beach renourishment
and then to transfer $75,000 every year from accommodations tax funds for beach renourishment, if
Town Council approves the recommendation. The accommodations tax committee's resolution is
attached.

**General Fund.** We expect the general fund revenue to increase by $270,000 for FEMA
reimbursements; expenditures should increase about $244,000, but may be a little bit less. These are
expenditures spent over and above budget to do walkovers, salaries, overtime, et cetera for Hurricane
Matthew recovery.

**Hospitality Fund.** The grant request was denied for the fire radios, so the hospitality fund revenue
was decreased by $113,000, but the budgeted amount was less than expected so that was added.
Expenses will go down $186,000 because we didn't need to transfer as much money as we originally
thought for beach renourishment. All of this is to determine the hospitality fund balance at the end of the
year.

**Capital Projects Fund.** In capital projects, because we're paying for the state's half of the cost,
has to be shown as revenue coming in from the state, and also show as an expenditure. Those are the
budgeted rules because we're using our money and Town Council has to approve that. It nets out that all
it cost the town is our actual share. This is just an accounting mechanism that has to be done.

**Sanitation Fund.** The sanitation funds is receiving FEMA reimbursement of $176,000, and the cost
was about $145,000 for debris removal, tipping et cetera.

**Pier Fund.** Pier fund revenue went down $64,000, because there are no fishing or admission fees.
FEMA reimbursed the town $16,000 for the debris removal from the pier caused by Hurricane Matthew
that was $19,000.

Ms. King said although it was confusing, the beginning balance, the changes, and the amended ending balance are shown on the ordinance. This money was already received and/or spent, and is a formality. This year revenue and expenditures were shown to ensure accurate amounts were shown.

Mr. Courtney moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0843. Mr. Stevens second.

Ms. Samples said I think you explained it beautifully, Ms. King. Thank you very much. It's quite simple and thank you.

All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Resolution #17-180 to Change Three Meeting Days to Monday, Councilmember Courtney. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt Resolution #17-180. Mr. Johnson second.

Mr. Courtney explained during the summer the councilmembers and those who attend council meetings cannot attend the hula shows, because they are on Tuesday nights. He asked Ms. Ellis to see if the shows could be moved to Monday, but Tuesdays are the only days available for the show. The resolution calls for the June 27, July 11, and July 25 to be moved to Monday nights, which are the 26th, 10th, and 24th, respectively.

Mr. Ott said maybe I'd like to move my birthday, too, and said sometimes it just wrong to change things.

Ms. Samples sometimes I think we're focused on the wrong things. I do not support the change in dates.

Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

D. RFQ-IT Services Award, Administrator Fellner. Ms. Samples moved to award the RFQ-IT Services to SouthCoast Networks. Mayor Childs second. Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. The recommendation for awarding to SouthCoast Networks (SCN) is because they are currently our provider. The rationale is they were the lowest rate, while providing 24/7 services; SCN has specific, extensive knowledge of the town's IT infrastructure that is deemed invaluable, and under SCN's guidance, the Town of Surfside Beach was one of just a few municipalities or counties that passed the recent technology audits performed by the Municipal Association of South Carolina, that was for our jail; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. The town has experienced no appreciable downtime in the network since 2001 when SNC began, SCN is the lowest apparent qualifier. Ms. Fellner concluded by saying I would ask that the bid be awarded to SouthCoast Networks.

Mr. Stevens said during the bid opening a citizen asked if a committee was going to review the bids. Who was on that committee? Ms. Fellner said the review committee was comprised of Captain Miller, Mr. John Harrah, who understands software and has extensive knowledge, and me. Mr. Stevens asked why council was not given any financial information on this. Ms. Fellner said the information is proprietary. Ms. Fellner explained that the terms were stated in the RFQ; the contract is for five years. Each submitter was contacted by the clerk to determine if their submissions could be published. Each one of them said no, which means they don't want their financial information shared. Having said that, I would happily share it with any councilmember, but no councilmember contacted me. I do have that information available, and will be happy to share it. Mr. Stevens said normally when we get bids we get some kind of dollar amount, and we being asked to sign a contract for five years. Ms. Fellner said I
believe I just explained that.

Ms. Samples said I support this for three reasons: corporate memory; staff has recommended SCN, and SCN is the low bid. Thank you. I support it.

Mr. Courtney said I have a problem with a five-year contract. I think it’s a little long. I agree with Mr. Stevens as far as information on these bids was not given to council. A five year contract is a long term. That is my biggest concern.

Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino and Samples voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney and Stevens voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. RFQ-Engineering Award Town-wide Engineering, Director Adair. Ms. Samples moved to award the RFQ-Engineering to DDC Engineering. Mr. Johnson second. Mr. Adair presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file.

Mr. Pellegrino asked what the price difference was between DDC Engineering and Thomas & Hutton. Mr. Adair said he preferred not to speak in public about any negatives for a company; he would be happy to share the rate sheets with councilmembers. The two firms have about the same price; some items were $20 more per hour, others were $40 more an hour, depending on who was leading the project. For the services we use most, using DDC would be a cost savings for the town. The senior planner who manages town projects and works with staff daily from DDC is $150 per hour; Thomas & Hutton is $195 per hour. A senior landscape architect from DDC is $150 an hour versus Thomas & Hutton at $180 an hour. A professional land surveyor at DDC is $135 an hour to anywhere from $140 to $180 at Thomas & Hutton, depending on the level of expertise. DDC does not charge the town for travel time; Thomas & Hutton will charge the IRS rate of $0.55 a mile. There are efficiencies and savings. Both companies are highly recommended. Mr. Adair said in his opinion, DDC is best for the town. Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for that information. So there are certainly cost savings. One thing we have had are cost corrections with DDC in past where they came back, like Ms. Watson noted earlier, with corrections and increases to cost. Although we may be saving upfront, if they have to adjust the cost at the end, we may not be saving. Over my three years on council, there's been actually a handful of occasions when that's happened. Competition is always a good thing. We've used DDC for many, many projects, and I think we need to keep in mind when you use a competitor just once that causes everyone to sharpen their pencils and a better job next time. So that's certainly something I think we should keep in mind. Mr. Adair explained that when you want to budget a job, the engineers will prepare an estimate of cost using estimated quantities, estimated mobilization, and other standards in the industry. Depending on the market, when you actually bid out the job, it could be a higher or lower cost. That is a reality of the market. The Myrtle Swash project was something we asked DDC to give us an estimate on an emergency basis. The original quantities were way underestimated, and we added a lot to that job after the fact, that's why the price increased. If it had been constructed to the original proposal, it would not be as nice, or as long as it is now, and it would've cost less money. That was not the fault of DDC. They were responding to our immediate need to get a price. Staff does not have the luxury of taking time to bid out every single project, because sometimes there are emergent situations, and he hoped councilmembers understood that. Mr. Pellegrino said thank you for that explanation.

Mr. Ott said I'm not really happy with DDC, and asked Mr. Adair if he studied engineering. Mr. Adair said no. Mr. Ott said I did, and let me say this, they come back every time with an oversight. They just did that 5th Avenue bulkhead. They came back, because one, they did not include their price. Boy, that sounds like oh, I forgot to put my money in. As far as I see it, they come back every time. You look at 4th Avenue North, they did that design. So what are we doing there? Look at Cedar and 4th Avenue. We have how many culverts on that corner? See, the pipe's too small underneath. Let me tell you that. That was a design disaster. I see it. There was a 6 foot earth and gutter behind those homes. They changed it to a 2 foot diameter pipe. Now as you probably know, once you go over 1 foot in water the
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Mr. Johnson said we have four bids and DCC has done some quite a bit of work for us. He asked hypothetically if the fact that DCC is familiar with the Town of Surfside Beach and our stormwater drainage system, and the town’s inner workings played into their price reduction. Mr. Adair said no, these are DCC’s schedule of hourly rates. Mr. Johnson said okay, I would hope that [factored] in the calculations. Mr. Adair said he had no personal experience with Thomas & Hutton, but heard they are a great company. Choosing the engineer was entirely Town Council’s decision, and he would work with them. I am trying to do what is best for the town, and DCC works well with the town.

Mr. Stevens said I’m not for DCC. I’ll state publicly why I’m not for them. We had a job on 5th Avenue North swash. Before the town was responsible for that job, I bid that job for Surfside Realty as an employee of a private company. The bid was $60,000. The invoice for the same materials that you used on that wall in June 21, 2014 was $29,121.40. We ended up paying nearly $180,000 two years later. I know that materials didn’t go up that much. I don’t think that DCC is looking out for the best interest of the taxpayers nor the town of Surfside. That’s why I totally against ‘em. I don’t care whether they know all about Surfside. There’s other engineers. How long are you obligating us to a contract with them? Mr. Adair said this is a five-year term. Mr. Stevens said so for five years were going to be stuck with one engineer. We can’t get bids. Mr. Adair said no. Mr. Stevens said that’s what you’re saying. Mr. Adair explained the RFQ specifies that we are free to use other engineers for various projects. Mr. Stevens asked are we doing that. Mr. Adair said we haven’t to date, but we have the right to according to the RFQ. Mr. Stevens said well, I think that the town should look out for the taxpayers, because we spent too much money on that 5th Avenue North swash. I know the materials didn’t go up that much in two years. I can’t believe their engineers looking out for the best interest, because Ready Rock that was put down is not that hard to make and it doesn’t go up that much. I mean that’s the bottom line. Plus, they had 52 lawsuits; 46-percent of them they were plaintiffs; 7 of them were judgments, or 13.546 percent of their lawsuits had judgments against them. That stinks. I just don’t think these people are looking out for the citizens here and the citizens all over this town. That’s my opinion of it. I think we need to look at other companies. With those kind of prices it opens up the door for corruption, paybacks, and everything. Mayor Childs said the town is still able to use other engineers for bids on jobs. You’re not locked into DDC, correct. Mr. Adair said this is strictly on-call. He explained that DDC cannot control what the contractor proposes on that job. They are not the ones that were paid $170,000. Mr. Stevens said [MontCo]. There is just too much that doesn’t add up.

Ms. Samples said I really appreciate your research and your recommendation on this. I support it 100-percent. Thank you for the time and effort you’ve put into it. I appreciate it.
Mr. Courtney said what bothers me is, and no offense to Mr. Adair, but he is not an engineer. I have a problem with five-year contracts for anything. I don't believe in long term contracts. It is just not good. As Mr. Pellegrino said, there is no competition when you have a contract. What I saw on 3rd Avenue swash was a lot of oversights. We had subcontractors from MontCo to Tim's Construction. I just don't believe in 5 year contracts. I just don't like them. There is no reason to have a contract. We have an attorney that we don't even have on retainer. We're a municipality and not to have an attorney on retainer is absolutely absurd.

Ms. Samples called point of order, and said can we stay on subject, please. Mr. Courtney said he was talking about contracts. Ms. Samples said the town attorney has nothing to do with discussion. Mayor Childs said the point of order was well taken.

Mr. Ott said I just want to bring up the point of familiarity. Who did the entire south end stormwater system? Mr. Adair said Earthworks Group. Mr. Ott said yes, they're the number three choice, and DDC did the one that doesn't work. Let me make that as a fine point. The other ones work fine. Mr. Adair said there was a lot he could say about that, but he did not want to disparage any company in public. Mr. Ott said he saw where the system flooded during Hermione, because the system was not cleaned out. Mr. Adair said there are design issues. Mr. Ott said as it is, and as it was designed, it works fine. But, there is a major problem over here on 4th Avenue North, I appreciate that no matter who ends up in here, we fix that. Mr. Adair said absolutely, I am 100-percent on that.

Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Adair did a great job answering questions under some interesting duress. You're very professional. Mr. Adair said just to be clear, I'm not an engineer. If I was, you wouldn't have to hire one. (Laughter)

Mr. Johnson asked if we could call for a vote. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson and Samples voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, and Stevens voted against. MOTION FAILED.

Ms. Samples said the town needs an engineer. Somebody needs to offer an alternate. (**several speaking at once.)

Mr. Stevens suggested bidding out each and every job for engineering. That would solve the problem, because we got four engineers that would like to do business with the town. If we bid out every job then at least we know we are getting a bid on each and every job, and would be better stewards of the taxpayers' money.

Ms. Samples asked if the administrator could comment on the process. Ms. Fellner said there are a number of reasons why if we bid each and every one, right now I know I am task saturated. I know Mr. Adair is task saturated. So I have to create the bid documents for each project every time we're going to bid a project. Then were going to have to go through the whole evaluation process. So it makes that period longer. I don't think were afraid to do that, but each time we bid something it's slightly different, so the documents have to change. Believe it or not, that takes time. So that could be an issue. There are four councilmembers who do not want DDC. Having said that, we need an engineer because you have to have someone to call when you want to a quick answer on something. You have to have someone to give you general advice. It's like having a town attorney. There are times when you need guidance, because we don't have an engineer on staff. Really, it's that simple. Mr. Adair this is a big part of the multiple services we get. Ms. Fellner said it is. Mayor Childs asked if it was possible to go back to them and get a contract for one year.

Mr. Pellegrino moved to award the RFQ-Engineering to Thomas & Hutton. Mr. Ott second.

Mr. Pellegrino said I'm doing this because I really believe the competition makes all people involved
better, and I believe we had a lack of competition in the engineering field recently and in past years. I think that DDC can come back later on for future jobs probably with a whole different mindset.

Mr. Johnson said with no disrespectful for my fellow councilman, we have competition every time the bid comes up. I'd just like to say that. That being said, if it can save the town money, which it won't...

All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**

**A. Electronic Waste Disposal & Cost, Charles Schmidt, S&S Salvage Electronic Recyclers, LLC, Councilmember Stevens.** Mr. Stevens introduced Mr. Schmidt who gave a presentation to council about his electronic waste recycling business. Mr. Schmidt said he did not have either the DHEC certification or an R2 certification, but he could obtain them in seven days, if the town decides to use his service. His company did not accept hazardous waste, but would pick up all electronic recycling free of charge to the town, as his income was derived from cannibalizing the machines and selling them to downstream vendors. Mayor Childs and Ms. Samples suggested this be discussed further at the budget workshop coming up this Thursday. Mayor Childs thanked Mr. Schmidt for the presentation. **COUNCIL CONCURRED to discuss this at the budget workshop.**

**B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.** There were no other discussion.

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

Mr. Billy Turner, 4th Avenue North: I don't know whether this comes under this portion of this or not, but I wasn't able to hear who is opposed and who is a proponent of the tent ban, and I would like to know that. I think some other people here would like to know, as well. Mayor Childs said Mr. Turner, we can't address you at this point. This is your time to speak. We cannot answer. Ms. Samples said Mr. Turner, if you'll see me after the meeting, I'll share that with you. Mr. Turner: Okay, thank you.

Ms. Holly Watson, Oak Drive North. Thank you for your vote. I wanted to ask you to consider again why a director is signing contracts worth millions of dollars. In my opinion, I don't think that he has the background nor the knowledge of South Carolina, federal, and county, and state law. I feel like that's our administrator's position and responsibility to sign contracts since she is familiar with legal terminology and that type of thing. I would like to see that taken back into her responsibility, so that if you have a question you can deal directly with her. You have to go to her to get him anyway, so you might as well just cut out a step. Again, I thank you for your vote. I would also remind you that when we were talking about the water bill increase tax fund or whatever you want to call it, I gave all of you some information on design build firms. We can save 6-percent on every single contract, if you will go with design build. That way when you put it out for bid, you have an engineer, an architect, and builder all in one. So you only have to advertise one time, not two or three. So design build in my opinion is the way to go. It's being used all over the state, all over the county, and actually our school district is using design build. So if you would consider that I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

Ms. Sherri Wardle, 1st Avenue North: At the last meeting we discovered that Administrator Fellner kept secret for over two years... Ms. Samples interrupted: Mr. Mayor, **point of order.** Mayor Childs: Ma'am, I announced that you can talk about town services, but you cannot talk about individuals. Ms. Wardle: I'm not talking about an individual. I'm talking about an incident that was brought up at the last meeting. Ms. Samples: Mr. Mayor, she started off with the administrator’s name. I think we have a **point of order,** again, please. Mayor Childs said the **point of order** was well taken. Use a more general description, like a department or something to that effect. Ms. Wardle: Alright, so I did want to bring up the article that came out recently that the South Carolina Department of Health concluded their
investigation into the incident. They found that no applicable EMS laws or regulations were violated. The article in the Myrtle Beach Herald also added that the health department’s Bureau of EMS and Trauma couldn’t look at, and had no jurisdiction over compliance with town rules and policies or state fire associations. However, according to the same article, town fire captain Prince Williams gave a statement in March 2015 to administrator Fellner and the former HR (human resources) coordinator that the junior firefighter shouldn’t have been allowed to perform the emergency procedure on the patient and wasn’t even supposed to be within 25 feet of a patient on a medical call. According to the article, former Mayor Samples knew about it and former Fire Chief Anthony Fox was relieved of his position, because of it. The former HR coordinator confirmed that the information in the papers regarding this incident was true. Now Administrator Fellner and Councilman Pellegrino reminded us at the last meeting not to believe everything that we read in the paper. It appears that they want us to pick and choose what we should believe. What we know is true is that the incident was kept secret for over two years. The administrator told us an attorney advised her accordingly. Why, because indeed as Captain Williams stated, town and contact the family? Well, they know about it now, and what do you think will happen next? Well, we have to wait to read the newspapers. I’m sickened by this. And the Councilman Pellegrino has to sit up here and teach or preach to us about speculating. Mr. Pellegrino called point of order. Mayor Childs said, ma’am, you’re going with names again. Please, I’ll have to ask you to take your seat, if you do it again. Please. Ms. Wardle: Well, how, alright, okay. Well, I’d like to know about why we are being preached to about speculating, because I think that there is; this is an issue of right and wrong here, and do you want to know what I’m speculating about now? I’ve been asking repeatedly for legitimate proof involving check number 72167 for $9,999 to Clemson University Foundation written on 12/9/16. I’m still waiting, and therefore, still speculating. We were told it was for landscaping design, so there should be a contract, invoice, [and] a certified design plan. Clemson Foundation is a charitable organization, so this appears to be a donation. There are strict guidelines regarding using public funds for private donations. I shouldn’t have to tell you this, or should I? You could’ve put this matter to bed weeks ago. All you had to do was show the proof. If it’s truly legitimate, then shame on you for allowing me and other citizens in this town to speculate a misappropriation of funds regarding this matter. I’m truly appalled that council doesn’t appear to challenge or question the competence in this town and the judgment. It was poor judgment to follow the advice of the attorney to keep the junior firefighter incident a secret. There was no need for names. But somebody died here. We should have been informed about that. What about what happened with the former finance manager and the embezzlement? Nobody talks about that. I guess that is still under investigation. But that’s incompetence. I’m just wondering how long council (time ended) is gonna turn a blind eye to this.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Ott: I just want to say thank you for coming out and listening to us. Thank you to the staff for allowing us to do what we do. Sorry, sometimes. Sometimes, I believe it was necessary. Sometimes maybe overdone. Thank you.

Mr. Courtney: Thank everybody for coming out again. I thank staff. We’re not here to beat up on staff, we’re just here to find out answers to the questions that we have. Going to the beach issue and the tent ban, you guys know where I stood on it. When I have the police chief, and a chief of lifeguards tell me that there is a safety issue, and it could be hazardous, I’m gonna take safety first over that. I’m not gonna let anybody get hurt out there, I’m sorry, including our tourist. I received numerous emails as many of other councilmembers have. I also received a petition with over 150 signatures on it from residents and out-of-towners. I’m not gonna put the town in liability. I’m not gonna put you guys at the liability where will be responsible when something happens out there. Again the chief of lifeguards, and the police department, both said we have a problem. We have a problem. We need beach renourishment on the south end. We don’t have any beach left. The mean high tide is up to the dune line, because there are very few dunes left. It’s getting worse. I’m hopeful we can have beach renourishment this year. I’m looking forward to it and hope it gets done. Thank you very much for coming out. Have a good night.
Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’ve written so many notes, I can’t read them all. As far as the tent ban goes, I did not agree with it. I do not agree with it beginning in January. I promise you in some form, it will come back up to council. I don’t know when. I don’t know how, but it will. I certainly did not intend to insinuate there was any impropriety going on, but I just wanted to cover my bases with people coming up and offering something for free. Thank you Mr. Adair for all that you do. Thank you for all staff. You do a wonderful, wonderful job, especially you, and you, and you, and you, and you, and you; but not you! (Laughter) As far as lifeguards not being able to see on the beach, normally that’s because they’re sleeping on the job. (Laughter) Thanks for coming out. Thank you. God bless you, and we’ll see you next time.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming. Mr. Turner, I voted no on the tent ban, just so you know. You don't win 'em all. I want to thank the staff, because we received our budget binder this week, which is about that thick (3 inches), and I know staff worked extra hard, obviously led by the administrator and Ms. King. I appreciate that, because it’s very well put together and it gives us the information we need to come prepared on Thursday, so we can do some good work with budget. Thank you for that preparation. I’ll just skip over the rest of my notes. Thank you for coming. Thanks for your input. Have a great night.

Ms. Samples: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you all for coming tonight. I have full confidence in our staff, and therefore, their recommendations. I like to support, just like we supported the police chief’s and the fire chief’s recommendations on tents. I think we should’ve supported the rest of the staff’s recommendations on other things. I am disappointed that we have a tent ban. I think it’s unfortunate. I think it keeps us in line with everybody else, I guess. I did like the fact that we were unique, and offered a service that nobody else on the Grand Strand offered. Mr. Turner, I voted against the tent ban, as well as Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Pellegrino. It went down 4:3, you’ll read it in the paper tomorrow. I’m looking forward to Thursday’s budget workshop. Ms. King, I’ve had an opportunity look over that nice, thick book, and I’m gonna be spending the day tomorrow looking over it as well. It’s gonna be a fun day. It is open to the public. You’re welcome to attend. Thank you all again. Have a lovely evening.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I wonder how many people sitting here in this audience has gotten something in the mail that said get free Chick-fil-A, or free this? Sometimes there are things that are free. It's my fiduciary duty as a councilman to look for ways to save you money. Every councilman up here should be trying to figure out how to cut cost, cut expenditures, and make government leaner. Not bigger, leaner. We don't need to be spending money all the time, and we don't need to be wasting money, and if I can find a way to save it, if it's only $673 a month, that's still money. I don't care how you label it, you're saving money. [S&S Salvage] was not my idea. It was a citizen's idea. He brought it to me, so I brought it to you. If I can save you $673, and by the way, if you multiply that over 120 months, that's a lot of money. We need to make changes in this town. We need to make positive changes. We need to make positive changes. We need to make changes, and if it's getting a better engineer, so be it. If it's getting a new police chief, he's right over there, so be it. That's things that we have to do, we're elected. This is your seat; you put me here. If you don't want me here, you can vote me out. That's your prerogative. That's the nice thing about America. Freedom. It's liberty, believe me this is what we have to do. We have to use common sense in government. We have wasted way too much money in the past. I've seen it wasted in this town. I am not going to vote for any wasteful spending anymore. Thank you, and y'all have a good week.

Mayor Childs: I like to thank the staff for everything they do. I'm a big supporter of staff. But I'd also like to thank council for their calm demeanor this evening on some controversial issues. You see how much more we can get done when everything just calms down. (Laughter) I appreciated it very much, and thank you for coming.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
Town Council Regular Meeting
April 25, 2017

Prepared and submitted by,

_______________________________________
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: May 11, 2017

____________________________________
Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

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Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

____________________________________
Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

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Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

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David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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Julie M. Samples, Town Council

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Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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