



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017 ♦ 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 24, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee; specifically, the position of deputy administrator starting in September 2017 instead of January 2018, and a salary adjustment for the town clerk. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Ms. Samples moved to enter executive session at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 6:06 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. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; 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: Pastor David Pohto, First Baptist Church Surfside, gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Executive Session and Regular Meeting July 10, 2017. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the July 10, 2017 executive session and regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Ms. Sandra Elliot, 5th Avenue North: Good morning, everyone. I mean good afternoon; good evening, whatever it is. I wanted to make a comment on the website discussion that Mr. Stevens is bringing up, okay. It's not negative. We have two sites. We have SurfsideBeach.org site, which is our homepage, and I have to agree with the minutes I was reading. It's very difficult to navigate. If you find something on there, it's a hard time to find it again. I think the visitors would give up. But on the .org site, we have a bar across the top; is there, there's a drop box at the page and it has in town. If you click on in town, you'll come to visitors' information. When you do that, you're gonna go right over to SurfsideBeach.com, which is South Strand Chamber's homepage. Right smack in the middle is a 65 second advertisement about us that is also on YouTube, because they have a link to go to YouTube. They put this video on in 2015. It hasn't had too many views. It's a little grainy. I only say that because I know someone who's in the business that tells me it is. My eyes don't see it. Also on the YouTube in November 2007, the Chamber has a video, and it's two minutes and 12 seconds long showing our whole town; I mean even the Veterans Memorial, all our parks. It had over 28,000 hits, and the best hit that we

54 had is our pier. It seems the fisherman love it there. They catch flounder. There was over 37,000 hits.
55 You do realize that if we got rid of the Chamber's videos, we need to do one. A 60 second video at least
56 cost \$5,000. So the Chamber site is far easier to navigate than ours. It doesn't have multiple levels to
57 confuse our guests or our residents, and it promotes our businesses in town. It has everything needed
58 without us duplicating items. Take a look; click away. Please review it before you make any decision, and
59 the rat, map that Ms. Magliette was looking for last week, last meeting, is on both sites, okay. Thank you.
60

61 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I'd like to thank Councilman Stevens for adding Item 8.A. to
62 the agenda. Walk-in retail businesses do not belong residential zones. As I stated at the previous council
63 meeting, the R1 district ordinance intent is to provide quiet, livable, low density single-family housing
64 neighborhoods. It is impossible to fulfill the intent of the ordinance when a business is operated in a
65 residential area. Businesses in residential areas impact both the quality of life and the safety of the
66 residents and visitors. I am asking that tonight council eliminate Division 2, Use Regulations Section 17-
67 396.4 without granting a grandfathered status to current businesses in our residential neighborhoods. I'm
68 also requesting that the elimination of Section 17-396.4 be the starting point for the review of and the
69 elimination of all other ordinance that allow for home businesses that require the clients to travel into our
70 residential neighborhoods. We need our ordinances, many of which are outdated and no longer
71 applicable to today's Surfside Beach, to be reviewed and either updated or eliminated. Please keep in
72 mind is this isn't just my problem. Every resident here, with the exception of those who live in Harbor
73 Lights, could awaken tomorrow to find a barber or beauty shop right next door to them. Thank you.
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75 Ms. Sherry Wardle, 1st Avenue North: Yeah, I want to discuss item 8D, reducing the amount
76 staff can spend without Town Council approval. I don't know how much all the staff are able to spend;
77 what their limits are, but I do remember at past meetings that we had discussed that the administrator
78 had a \$10,000 limit, and there was much discussion. I know that I came here several times wanting to
79 know about a check for \$9,999. Do you honestly think that reducing the amount is gonna solve your
80 problem? If you don't trust your staff with the limits that they have now, reducing it is not gonna change
81 anything. Cause all you have is one check for \$9,999 and then the check before it for \$75, also payable
82 to Clemson. So you're being you're being, you're being duped. If you honestly think that this is going to
83 solve your problem, forget it. It's not. If you don't trust your administration with the spending limits that
84 they have now, do something about. Either deal with it or get rid of 'em.
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86 6. COMMUNICATIONS

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88 **A. Employee Award. Fire Chief Kevin Otte, 5 years.** Mayor Childs presented Chief Otte with
89 an awards check, service pen, and certificate acknowledging his service. Chief Otte received a standing
90 ovation.
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92 B. Department Reports.

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94 **i. Events.** Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr.
95 Courtney said thank you to Ms. Ellis and staff for the good job done with the hula shows. I attended and
96 was surprised with the phenomenal turnout. I guess approximately 400 people. The beach was packed.
97 Great time. Thank you. Mayor Childs said Mr. Courtney is right. I think the count exceeded 400 people
98 one night. People were down to water's edge. It really is a very good event.
99

100 **ii. Finance.** Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms.
101 King explained that this a preliminary report. The town has 60 more days to book revenue and expenses
102 for 2016-2017. Ms. Samples asked if the town tracks businesses that close. Ms. King said not formally.
103 There is a difference between losing a business and having it continue under new ownership. Ms.
104 Samples did not believe they notified the town. Ms. King said there is no need to, because the town
105 doesn't provide any utilities to turn off. Staff could go through the Grand Strand Water Authority reports
106 to see who turned off water. Ms. Samples said thank you. Mr. Courtney said Ms. Samples and he had

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107 similar thoughts. He asked if the five new businesses were establishments that are opening store fronts
108 on Highway 17. Ms. King said they could be home businesses. Mr. Courtney asked if staff could start
109 tracking businesses filling vacant stores on Highway 17. Ms. King said we can do that. Mr. Courtney said
110 thank you so much, and thank you for your report.

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112 **iii. Fire.** Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms.
113 Samples said congratulations on your five years. You are a valuable asset to this town. We are grateful
114 and lucky to have you. Thank you for all of your hard work. Mr. Courtney said thank you very much for
115 your report. Congratulations on your five years. What is the volunteer recruitment status? Chief Otte said
116 a few people expressed interest. I have not seen any applications, yet, but the volunteer committee
117 reviews them first. The banner up was put up last week, and the information is on the Facebook page.
118 An individual who is moving here has already said he will volunteer. Mr. Courtney ask if any town staff
119 served as volunteers. Chief Otte said a member of public works responds; he serves as field support staff
120 by helping keep the scene safe by setting up cones, watching traffic, etc. Mr. Courtney asked Chief Otte
121 to keep Town Council informed on the volunteer recruitment. Chief Otte said he would give updates
122 monthly. Mr. Courtney asked how incidents on the beach were documented. Chief Otte said they have to
123 use the nearest physical address that 9-1-1 center has or that the engine company on scene sees. Mr.
124 Courtney was concerned because multiple calls being tied to a specific address [might cause problems,
125 because the calls weren't actually there.] Chief Otte said that was a possibility. Mr. Courtney suggested
126 that Chief Otte you look into this and determine whether the latitude and longitude could be used, so
127 calls are not registered erroneously to a particular address. Chief Otte said he would contact the 9-1-1
128 director soon. Mr. Ott referred to the "assist police - bomb call" in the report and asked if there were five
129 bombs. Chief Ott said the department stands by for those calls. We've had several suspicious packages
130 over the course of time. Mr. Otte said thank you, and thank you very much for your service. Mayor Childs
131 said again, congratulations for your five years.

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133 **iv. Planning, Building & Zoning.** Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which
134 is attached hereto. Ms. Morris said she just learned today regarding the stormwater issues on 14th
135 Avenue staff is working with the engineers to find solutions. Council will be updated. The process for
136 obtaining yard sale permits is going very smoothly. Several people came into the office; called, and sent
137 email messages. The information is kept on a spreadsheet. Harbor Freight will open within the next few
138 days. Ms. Samples said great report. Thank you for the detail on the yard sale permits. How many yard
139 sale permits were issued? Ms. Morris said over two dozen. Ms. Samples asked if the stormwater problem
140 was on 14th Avenue South. Ms. Morris said yes, it's where the new subdivision was built a few years ago.
141 Stormwater is running off from the commercial properties there onto the residential area. Mr. Ott said
142 thank you for your report. Very nicely done. It's all about things that we do for building and for zoning.
143 Your front door and it says 'planning.' So what are we planning? Ms. Morris said we are currently working
144 with the planning commission to get the overlay ordinance at least in line with the county's overlay
145 ordinance. Of course, that's going to be in conjunction with the new paving of Highway 17. The 3rd
146 Avenue promenade still needs revenue to complete that project. Mr. Ott asked if there was any rendition
147 for 3rd Avenue South. Ms. Morris said not yet. We are trying to get the money together. It's my
148 understanding the town administrator and the public works director met with Representative Fry and
149 Senator Goldfinch regarding funds. We already have recommendations for the next phase of the project
150 to present at the upcoming vision meeting. Mr. Courtney said thank you very much for your report. I
151 think it's very important that we start planning now. Business 17 is declining. When I came here in 2008
152 our businesses were doing great. I ask that you put 110-percent into this; get planning and zoning on
153 board, and try to get that overlay ordinance moving along. I don't want to wait to the road goes in; we
154 should've started on this sooner, because we definitely need the tax income. Ms. Morris agreed and said
155 our planning commission is definitely on top of it. They are taking it section by section, so when it's
156 presented to council it will be correct. Mr. Courtney asked when it might be presented to council. Ms.
157 Morris said they finished several sections of it at the last planning commission meeting. It will be
158 reviewed again at the August meeting. I predict that it will definitely come before Town Council within
159 the next few months. Mr. Johnson said from what I recall, we had an overlay district ordinance presented

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160 to Town Council before and it was voted down by previous administrations. So, I would hope that this
161 Town Council would take the initiative to institute what the planning and zoning commission
162 recommends. Ms. Morris said that is correct; a more stringent version of what we have now was
163 presented. Mayor Childs agreed with Mr. Johnson and said it started like a 'barn fire' and it was whittled
164 down to a couple of little tweaks. I would hope that this council would adopt a strict overlay ordinance. It
165 would certainly pay off down the road. Mr. Ott said that Harbor Freight is a really nice, big hardware
166 store. There is also a coffee shop going in at 16th Avenue North. Ms. Morris said there is, and there is a
167 delay with the SCDHEC permitting. I want everyone to know that is not the building and planning
168 department causing the delay. As soon as SCHEC signs off, it should be a smooth opening. Mr. Ott noted
169 that Garden City just south of the town is prospering and the county's overlay has a part in that. Mayor
170 Childs asked when the restaurant on 10th Avenue North would open. Ms. Morris said they're doing a lot of
171 major renovations inside and should be open within the next few weeks. Mayor Childs said a resident
172 called about the house at 3rd Avenue and Willow where the siding was blown off during Hurricane
173 Matthew. Ms. Morris said two certified letters were sent, but the property owner will not accept them. We
174 contacted their attorney and they won't accept the letters either. We called the sheriff's department in
175 their area, and they will deliver a summons. Mr. Courtney said *for the record*: "The Town of Surfside
176 Beach has got a very weak overlay, and we're the weakest on the Grand Strand, I believe at this point.
177 Am I correct?" Ms. Morris said you are. Mr. Courtney continued, "If you take a look at down Business 17,
178 you'll see the impact of it. It's imperative that we get businesses in this town. If not, it's gonna be on our
179 backs, on our taxes. So I want to be clear about that. It's very important. Thank you."

180
181 **v. Police.** Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms.
182 Samples said great report, and the speed study really surprised me. Especially that there are so many
183 more cars traveling on 16th Avenue North than 5th Avenue North. Where and what direction were you
184 taking the statistics. Chief Hofmann said I believe that the speed study on 16th Avenue North was
185 checking eastbound and westbound traffic. The device was placed at Cedar Drive. The speed study on 5th
186 Avenue North only captured eastbound traffic. The studies will be done again to check westbound traffic.
187 Ms. Samples asked if a traffic light was being put at 16th Avenue North. Ms. Fellner said a half-light would
188 be installed. Chief Hofmann said they could work with Mr. Adair to get some additional signage on 16th
189 Avenue North. The residents are correct in their complaints of a lot traffic. When they are parked, the
190 moving cars probably seem to be travelling a little faster than they actually are. Mr. Courtney said thank
191 you for your report. He asked if 17,000 vehicles on 16th Avenue North was correct. Chief Hofmann said
192 that was the count. It could be off a little. One of the things to keep in mind is that device picks up golf
193 carts and bicycles traveling at a certain speed. Mr. Courtney asked if this was through traffic. Chief
194 Hofmann said it's hard to say. It could be residents or visitors. I think that a lot of the traffic coming into
195 the north end takes 16th Avenue North down to Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Courtney said they come down 16th
196 Avenue and cut through Surfside Beach on Ocean Boulevard to go to Garden City. Chief Hofmann said I
197 don't know. Mr. Courtney said many residents from 16th Avenue North have complained this year, and I
198 can see why. It's very heavily traveled. Mr. Courtney asked if 16th Avenue North belongs to the town. Mr.
199 Adair said it does; it was taken over as part of Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Courtney said I think we need to
200 consider using traffic calming devices. Chief Hofmann said there are portables speed bumps and some
201 other ideas that we can discuss. Mr. Courtney said that is a lot of wear and tear on our roadways.
202 Personnel is doing a good job preventing accidents, which are down to 35 this month compared to 45
203 accidents last year. During previous months we were up in the 50s and 60s. So keep up the good work.
204 Thank you. You had promoted a detective to supervisor, correct? Chief Hofmann said yes. Mr. Courtney
205 asked if the detective position would be filled. Chief Hofmann said it will be filled as soon as possible. We
206 are waiting for a resolution on the chief's position. Mr. Courtney asked if a detective was still in the
207 department. Chief Hofmann said, yes, Sergeant Sliker is coping with the workload. Mr. Courtney said I
208 would hate to lose our detective division, because they do close a lot of cases. Thank you. Mr. Ott said I
209 look forward to calling you 'Chief.' The data for 16th Avenue North might not look like much, but that's
210 almost 5,000 vehicles that were speeding on that road in eight days. That is a lot of speeding. So that's
211 what the people are seeing. They don't see the other 20,000 vehicles that were going under that speed
212 limit. I see the tickets went up speeding violations. Since there are more cars on the highway at this

213 time, the accidents went up a little bit. But, the accident rate is still a lot better than it's ever been. Thank
214 you for that, and thank you for the report. Mr. Johnson said the intersection at 10th Avenue North and
215 Cedar Drive at Lake Elizabeth is a major safety concern. We may need to take a look at the landscaping
216 in the right-of-way. Drivers going south around that corner are 'flying.' I have seen speed checks there,
217 but eventually there will be a bad accident there. Maybe Chief Hofmann and Mr. Adair could meet to
218 determine what could be done to improve lines of sight at that intersection. Chief Hofmann said they
219 would take a look at that intersection. Mr. Ott said I've seen that same problem. It's a high motor
220 intersection. Mayor Childs asked Chief Hofmann to make sure officers pay particular close attention to
221 golf carts being driven by kids. I talked to a man recently who was allowing his son to drive the golf cart,
222 but he was controlling the pedals, because the son couldn't reach them. That happens quite frequently,
223 particularly this time of year.
224

225 **vi. Public Works.** Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached
226 hereto. Mr. Ott said thank you for your report. Coastal Asphalt has done a really nice job. In my opinion,
227 it looks like it's better than what we did before. Mr. Adair said overall, I'm pretty pleased with Coastal
228 Asphalt. Mr. Ott said a couple months ago you said all the sidewalks on Ocean Boulevard would be
229 checked for cracks and broken areas. Has that been done? Mr. Adair said the north end was checked,
230 because reports came from that area. There were a few isolated spots that needed to be repaired. That
231 work will be done during the off-season. In the meanwhile. All of the sidewalks will be checked so
232 necessary repairs can be made at the same time. Mr. Ott asked if there was any danger of people
233 tripping. Mr. Adair said no, every off-season with the exception of last year when Hurricane Matthew hit,
234 we replaced or repaired large sections of sidewalks. Mr. Ott said staff did a very nice job on the picnic
235 tables and Passive Park gazebo. It looks a lot better, really nice. Maybe we can make more improvements
236 next year. I'd like to see an amphitheater there someday. Mr. Adair said in the future he will bring some
237 proposals for a restroom in the Passive Park. Ms. Samples said I had a lot of calls about paving; all
238 positive. People have been really impressed with it. I want to tell you that the people who are doing the
239 work have been very nice and accommodating to the residents. There were a lot of comments about
240 that. So, I wanted to pass that along to you. Mr. Adair said we had a couple of complaints that were
241 resolved quickly. Ms. Samples asked when the next paving project will start. Mr. Adair said that's my next
242 project going into the latter part of August after the season ends. A list of three to four miles of roads will
243 be chosen. The county already has funding set apart from CTC (County Transportation Committee)
244 funding. I want to get that work bid out as quickly as possible. Mayor Childs agreed with Ms. Samples'
245 comments, and said I've heard good comments about the paving. It's super smooth and everybody is
246 thrilled with the way it looks. Mr. Courtney said I do have concerns about the paving; I heard some
247 complaints. He asked if residents were notified when paving projects start. Mr. Adair said flyers are
248 distributed to all houses in the areas affected in May. Mr. Courtney asked if dates were given. Mr. Adair
249 said the flyer stated that we expect to have it done mid-May. Mr. Courtney said I got second hand
250 complaints, so I don't know if they're factual. I was told that people were not allowed to enter the road
251 after they went for groceries. Is there any kind of marquee or bulletin board stating the roads will be
252 paved? Mr. Adair said no. The contractor scrapes the edges of the road the day before paving starts. We
253 never had a problem in the past. Mr. Courtney said there are rentals on the South end of town, and I ask
254 that notification be sent out nearer to actual paving dates so residents and nonresidents could be
255 informed. Several people told me they had to park on Poplar and walk down the street to their homes.
256 Mr. Adair said he would explore different options. Mr. Ott asked where the backhoe trophy is. We came in
257 third place in the backhoe rodeo. Mr. Adair the picture of Tom Nophsker is in report. Last month he and
258 Mr. Willie Myers achieved first and second place in the PD Region American Public Works Association. Mr.
259 Nophsker came in 3rd in the State Rodeo.
260

261 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is
262 attached hereto. Ms. Fellner said if Town Council has no objection, I would like to point Kenneth Hoffman
263 as the new chief of police for the Town of Surfside Beach. (*Applause, and standing ovation.*) **There**
264 **were no objections.** Ms. Fellner announced that the public was invited to attend his swearing-in
265 ceremony on Thursday, July 27th at 4:00 p.m. in council chambers.

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Chief Hofmann said Mr. Mayor, Town Council, and citizens, I am honored and very flattered that you would have me in this position. I'm just a Horry County boy, but I love this town, and I grew up here. I'm proud to do this, so thank you for trusting me. Thank you to Ms. Fellner, staff, and everybody else who have helped me last five months. I am very honored to have the opportunity to lead the police department under your guidance. I hope everybody can attend Thursday 4:00 p.m. for the swearing-in ceremony. Thank you to everybody, especially the citizens and the community. Many of them are here tonight who contacted me and offered their support. I really appreciate it. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Ms. Samples said thank you to Mayor Childs and Ms. Fellner for meeting with our representatives about funding. We appreciate you taking that time and effort. Ms. Fellner, we've discussed the lifeguard stations at the beach and that they are expected to move the chairs with the tides. Ms. Fellner said it was a lack of clarity, but now they are very clear what's expected. Every lifeguard station will be moved with the tides. Our beach services officers will be watching this. Ms. Samples asked if the beach service contractor understands that now how he supposed to instruct his lifeguards on the rules. Ms. Fellner said he is crystal clear. Ms. Samples said I see that we have no items on business for tonight, which is disappointing to me, because I'd like to know where the tree ordinance is. What has happened to our tree ordinance? We're going on nine months now, and we discussed it again. Ms. Fellner explained that we had one councilmember who could not meet on the dates which were supposed to be two weeks ago. A subcommittee meeting is scheduled tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., which will be the third meeting. Ms. Samples said that's good to hear. Thank you. Mr. Pellegrino said I saw a lifeguard moving his chair when I was on the beach yesterday. You mentioned in your report that FEMA will present to Town Council in the near future. What does 'in the near future' mean? Ms. Fellner said I'm hoping August or the beginning of September. It just depends on the engineer. I can't give you an exact date. Mr. Pellegrino said it sounds like it will be before October like we thought. Ms. Fellner said oh, yes. Mr. Pellegrino said keep pushing them, please. It was mentioned previously about the buildup of businesses in Garden City, but not here. One of the major impacts that is declining business license fees, which we have already discussed. What is status on that? Ms. Fellner explained that business licenses have already been issued for this year. We will bring an ordinance to establish declining rates to council, probably when there is not much going on; perhaps late fall. Mr. Pellegrino said if we adopt that, it would go into effect for the next business license cycle. Ms. Fellner said that is correct. I might say with regard to the overlay ordinance that County Council Chairman Lazarus mentioned that they're going to change its overlay that they have on Business 17. So our planning and zoning commission has a lot of things to consider. I'm not even sure that the county's planning and zoning know exactly what changes are proposed. Mr. Ott said regarding the lifeguard chairs there was actually nothing in the contract, but Ms. Fellner found that the ordinance stated that the police could designate where the chairs could be. That was the part that the town administrator used to have those chairs moved. When we renegotiate that lifeguard agreement, we will put it in there. Mr. Johnson said *for the record*, "Can you tell us who the focus group members were for nominating the police chief?" Ms. Fellner said Everett Goff, Beth Kohlmann, Dianne Trapp, Rodney Keziah, and me. Mr. Courtney provided overview for the process. I just wanted that law enforcement perspective. Mr. Johnson said sure, I just wanted to know. Ms. Samples said they did a great job. Please convey that to them. Thank you. Mr. Courtney Chief Hoffman mentioned that all police officers were trained in the use of Narcan. Which budget is that in? Chief Hofmann said Narcan is provided by SCDHEC at no cost to the town. Mr. Courtney asked how many officers would carry Narcan. Chief Hofmann said all on duty officers.

7. BUSINESS. Motions and/or Directions to the Town Administrator from executive session. Mr. Johnson moved to bring a deputy town administrator on staff beginning September 1, 2017. Ms. Samples second. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Samples voted in favor. Councilmember Stevens voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

318 Mr. Johnson moved to direct the town administrator to implement a salary adjustment for the
319 town clerk as discussed during executive session. Ms. Samples second. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore
320 Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Samples voted in favor. Councilmember
321 Stevens voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**
322

323 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**
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325 **A. Walk in Retail Businesses in R1, R2, and R3 Residential Districts, Councilmember**
326 **Stevens.** Mr. Stevens said this basically is just something that we need to look at. We had a resident
327 mention it several times and council about businesses in residential districts. The way I look at it in R1
328 and R2 and R3 districts there should be no business where there is a continuous stream of customers
329 parking, a lot parking, or parking going to go to a home-based business. However, a person should be
330 allowed to have a home-based business, as long as the business does not cause a problem in the
331 neighborhood, a large amount of traffic or foot traffic or parking. An example is a business where the
332 majority of business is from telephone calls, or is a business derived from other areas Horry County, such
333 as a contractor, realtor, professional, or service related business. My feeling is Town Council should revisit
334 the ordinance on home-based business; should look at businesses which have a lot of amount of retail
335 and foot and parking traffic, and change the laws accordingly. This should apply to the town government,
336 which has in the past run commercial operations in residential districts despite ordinances against such
337 operations, and should apply to town government and individual businesses. That's basically what I
338 brought this out for citizen because she had a problem with a lot of people there. I know we can't
339 discriminate a person from say a lady teaching piano lessons or something like that, and I would also like
340 to hear our planning and zoning director, what she has to say on it. Mr. Ott said I was gonna agree with
341 Mr. Stevens. If you ever took any music lessons in your life that's where you do it. Most people can't
342 survive by renting a building and teaching guitar, piano, singing lessons or anything like that. But the
343 strict part that should be, there should be no stream of people coming in there. We should write the
344 ordinance to say there is a person and there is a period of time when there is nobody else there. It may
345 be a tutoring business where somebody tutors children in mathematics or English. That should be
346 allowed. I don't believe we should ever have somebody where there's four and five people getting in a
347 barbershop in somebody's home. That's not a home business. That should be in a retail or a business
348 district. Ms. Samples said our current ordinance basically says that if you're gonna have an in-home
349 business there can be no employees hired and they can't bring in any extra equipment for their business.
350 So if they are doing hair, it seems to me that the problems that we been having are parking issues more
351 so than the actual business. At least that's the impression that I'm getting unless in-home beauty parlors
352 are hiring or have a staff in violation of the ordinance. So maybe what we need to do is look at our
353 current ordinance and see how effective it is, because it's pretty clear what you can do and so, we
354 shouldn't have an issue. If it's complaint based, it comes to our planning, building and zoning, it's
355 certainly something they can check out or Chief Hofmann can have it checked out if there is a parking
356 issue, because again they can hire no employees. So, how many heads can they do at one time? So I get
357 it is a concern, and I agree that it's something that needs to be checked on. I'm just not so sure we need
358 to change the ordinance in order to do that. I think we need to understand what the ordinance says and
359 then go about enforcing it, which we cannot do unless we get a complaint about it. Mr. Stevens asked if
360 Ms. Morris could speak. Mayor Childs said no; this is council discussion.
361

362 **B. Marketing for Town Website for Business Community, Councilmember Stevens.** Mr.
363 Stevens this is basically marketing for the town website. We talked about marketing that Councilmember
364 Magliette was doing at the last meeting. After looking at everything, I went on the Internet and
365 researched. I think that anybody will agree, if you are not from this area and you're gonna look up
366 Surfside it's gonna go to Google, Bing, Yahoo or some search engine like that. You're not gonna go to
367 Surfside Beach.org because you don't know it exists. So I went to the search engines and I looked at
368 restaurants, which gives us hospitality tax. I looked at accommodations which give us accommodations
369 tax. I looked at service. I looked at retail shopping. I found it failed to bring up the Town of Surfside
370 Beach to the forefront of any of those search pages. I also found that the visitSurfsideBeach.com that

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371 was mentioned at the last council meeting by the administrator and Councilmember Samples hardly
372 showed up in the search engines that the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce said that they made for
373 the town. All I know were spending around \$12,000 for marketing, web design, with large impact and is
374 basically the same information that was available on our apps just a couple years ago in 2015. I didn't
375 see any changes whatsoever or anything while I was searching the town of Surfside. I didn't see any
376 branding for Surfside, like Surfside is the family beach. It appears to me that the ball has been dropped.
377 Whatever the town is doing is not in its best interest. We have a lot to push and we don't seem to be
378 getting these things out. We have built one of lowest crime rates around; the absolute lowest drug use
379 and drug sales in resort areas all around us and statewide. If you went to the heroin symposium you
380 would've seen that. Our chief was the moderator. We're light blue, which is the least amount of drug
381 problems. Myrtle Beach is bright red. This tells you right up the road they have a problem. For example,
382 the police chief has dropped accidents by 50-percent. We as the town should be shouting to tourists and
383 families our benefits across America. Come and visit Surfside Beach and have a safe and family oriented
384 vacation. I don't feel what we're doing is working in the best interest of the town of Surfside. These were
385 some of the searches I did (*holding up papers.*) After about three or four pages, I found autism friendly.
386 That was only thing I found under restaurants. I went to accommodations. Luckily, we're on page one.
387 This was Google. That was good for us. I went to retail shopping and out of all the pages that, we had
388 we ended up like the last page, this was page 5, and it was like over a hundred listings, and we finally
389 found visitSurfsideBeach.com, which is supposed to be the Chamber of Commerce. We should be on the
390 first page, we're paying money, \$157,000; \$179,000 to the Chamber of Commerce last year. We should
391 be up there. This is Bing. There is nothing there. Retail stores, it's the same thing. When I pushed up
392 the Chamber of Commerce, it had nothing about Surfside. I had to go to the second page and we were
393 listed under all the other Myrtle Beach, Atlantic Beach, Conway, Little River and Surfside is in there. When
394 I punched up on the thing I didn't get anything about Surfside Beach other than Town of Surfside Beach.
395 The problem with the Town of Surfside Beach is a lot of people don't look at that. They get to it and they
396 said oh, this is a government site and I don't really know how to go into. Now maybe a millennial does,
397 but the average person doesn't. That's the kind of stuff we're seeing and it just it just seems like to me
398 that we're spending money, but we're not get the best bang for our buck. There was mention of 200,000
399 maps made by [Mr. Magliette] and being given to every place to stay in Surfside, and these people would
400 get it when they checked in and they would have the list of all restaurants and all stores, grocery stores,
401 whatever might be in town, and tell 'em where to go shop. So my way of looking at this is where I do I
402 get the best bang for my buck? Marketing? Well on the website I get the same thing I saw two years ago
403 in 2015; we're paying \$12,000 for the same application. I don't understand it. I like to hear some of the
404 other councilmembers. I'm only one person. I'm just stating my opinion. I like to hear from the other
405 councilmembers. Ms. Samples said just a correction. It was me who asked, if you read the minutes, I
406 asked who updates the visitSurfsideBeach.com website. I didn't suggest that you go look at that site. I
407 just asked who updated it. Secondly the 200,000 maps is what the Chamber produces for us; not what
408 Mr. Magliette produced. Mr. Ott said yes, that's what we asked for at the last meeting. We asked for
409 somebody from the Chamber of Commerce to come explained to us what they do for the town. We need
410 to have that happen. Ms. Fellner said I contacted Brad Dean right after the meeting. He is trying to get a
411 date and will get back to me shortly. Mr. Ott said you can go on your phone and choose food or lodging
412 as you drive through the Town of Surfside Beach nothing comes up in Surfside Beach. I brought that up
413 at the accommodations tax meeting two years ago. Mr. Courtney said I still believe that we have to add
414 some businesses on Business 17 to market them. Going to the website I pulled up Surfside Beach:
415 Golden Egg, Southside Grill, Bubba's Fish Shak, Malibu, River City Café, Valentino's II, and Crabby Mikes.
416 So it's in there. I guess it's up to the individual to find the town businesses based on their search. Mr.
417 Pellegrino said my businesses are in Myrtle Beach. So I do a lot of marketing through the Chamber of
418 Commerce. What works for Myrtle Beach doesn't necessarily work for Surfside. You can pay as much
419 money as you want to any search engine to get anywhere you want to be on it. It's a hard question.
420 Obviously Crabby Mike's is a high revenue business. They can pay for more marketing than a small little
421 tiny restaurant. If you've got more money, you can get more customers. Unfortunately, that's how it
422 works.
423

424 **C. Policing, Removing, & Revoking License of "Undesirable Business", Councilmember**
425 **Stevens.** Mr. Stevens said first I want to commend Chief Hofmann, because if it hadn't been for him, we
426 wouldn't know about this, and we wouldn't've caught these people. The hardest two things I've had to do
427 in my life is explain the actions of former President Bill Clinton to my daughter, and to explain to the
428 godmother of the Baptist Church why there were three such businesses in this town. I told her you can't
429 catch 'em unless you can catch 'em in the act. Here's the thing, we had three businesses come into town
430 and according to the South Carolina license and labor laws you can be a massage therapist, but you have
431 to have 500 hours of education. You have to be licensed; you have to pass a written exam, and you have
432 to renew that license just like you would a real estate license or a builder's license or whatever. Now in
433 the Chief's report, he said these people who came in our town had not been identified as having any
434 license whatsoever. This is the family beach. We don't need 'em here, and according to state law,
435 Chapter 7 Title V of South Carolina Code of Laws, to preserve health, peace, order and good government
436 basically having a house of prostitution in our town is not in line with the standard this community and
437 according to the law, council can make steps to preserve this. My question still is how they got past the
438 business licensing. A couple years ago we tried to bring the business license and the planning and zoning
439 together. Mr. Johnson, you remember that. Up in Columbia they talked about combining 'em. Had they
440 been correctly looked at these people would've never come in our town, and we would had these people
441 removed. Our administrator said we had already been this with Up in Smoke where they were selling the
442 synthetic marijuana and our attorney said we couldn't legally discriminate. You can discriminate against
443 criminals, believe me. We as a family beach and we know it as council people to make sure this never
444 happens again. That this type of operation never comes back into our town. Well, I know we have a
445 police department that will do everything, and I know they're doing whatever is necessary, but I'm sure
446 that there's a lot of folks in here that have lived here for a long time who don't want this type of thing.
447 Basically, we can actually, council can set a later date, a special hearing, to revoke the business license of
448 these three business, and we can make sure, we just have to advertise it, and we can contact him and
449 email each councilmember on the proper procedure. I believe that Ms. Morris has something in relation to
450 this, right? (**Ms. Morris responded from the audience.) Mr. Stevens continued saying so as long as we
451 we're going to call ourselves the family beach, I want to keep these type of businesses out of our town.
452 We don't need 'em. We don't want 'em. I sure don't want to see them here, and I hope that this council
453 will look, will get with the attorney, I hope the administrator would get with the attorney, and see if we
454 can't do something to pass it. We don't have to restrict massage therapist that are legal people who are
455 prescribed by a doctor. But we can certainly do something about criminal actions, and I hope the Council
456 will join me to get this kind of stuff out of our town once and for all, for ever and ever and ever. Mr.
457 Johnson said since my name was brought up, I would just say, obviously, I do not want massage parlors
458 per se in the Town of Surfside Beach. I don't want them anywhere. But, talking on that point, you can
459 get a business license for anything. You can get a business license for landscaping. You can get a
460 business license for a restaurant. You can get a business license for a bar or a massage, masseuse parlor,
461 but unless you're willing to invest the time and the finances into code enforcement and enforcement
462 overall, you're going to have elements like this. They're going to fall in the cracks. It is not anything that
463 the town did or did not do. You're going to have these elements that are gonna bypass the system. It
464 happens in every town and every city in the nation. So it's not just bad eye for Surfside Beach, it's a bad
465 eye for every municipality in every county in the United States of America. Mr. Stevens said I will agree
466 with what Mr. Johnson said. You can't stop a man from running contracting business and selling drugs.
467 But, in this situation these people were never checked for the state license and that's the requirement of
468 the business licensing department. They should of been checked by the business license department to
469 see if they had; let's face it, we're talking about Asian people. Oriental. That's what they were called.
470 (**several speaking at once.) Mr. Stevens said it's a fact that some of them are in the slave trade. (**)
471 They could've requested license from every person. It's is all they had to do. Ms. Samples said there were
472 three businesses that had the infractions. Two of them are already gone, and Chief Hofmann already
473 indicated that he had been visiting the third one on multiple occasions. Is that correct? Chief Hofmann
474 said yes. Ms. Samples said thank you so much for doing such a fine job. Mr. Courtney said the town
475 adopted an ordinance years ago that drug paraphernalia is illegal in the Town of Surfside Beach. Months
476 later, Up in Smoke opened its business. My point is that you're not to be able to stop businesses from

477 sliding in there that are illegal. You're not to be stop all criminal activity. Our police department through
478 due diligence spotted [criminal activity.] My point is we can pass ordinances, but it's upon the building
479 department and licensing and our police department to work on these things, and hopefully we won't
480 have problems like this down the road. Mr. Stevens said one final point. It behooves us to be proactive,
481 not reactive to stop things before they become a problem. Without being proactive, if you will wait until
482 something happens then we're in the paper, in the media, and we wonder why. Mr. Ott said I agree with
483 what everybody is saying. The problem is we need to know where everybody that works in the health
484 industry has to have a state license, also. We need to make sure we watch for that. The other problem is
485 the Constitution. It says you're innocent until proven guilty. You have to commit the crime first. Sorry,
486 but that's just the way we have it.

487
488 Mr. Courtney said he will be bringing the recommendations from the parking committee at the
489 next Town Council. He asked members to observe Surfside Drive in the meanwhile as it will be part of the
490 discussion.

491
492 **D. Reducing the Amount Staff Can Spend Without Town Council Approval,**
493 **Councilmember Stevens.** Mr. Stevens said as you know we've had a lot of people speak at the
494 podium about expenditures. Taxpayers are looking for transparency. I don't how many times I've heard it
495 here, and on the streets. We had about the Clemson expenditure, and then we had them come in here
496 and they gave us something we couldn't even use. Hopefully, that'll get straightened out. A lot of people
497 think the town has too much leeway in the spending of money going all the way up to \$9,999.99 without
498 proof. A lot of taxpayers have asked me to speak out for them and asked that to be reduced. I know I'm
499 only one vote, but I agree with 'em that we should reduce it anywhere from 20- to 50-percent. Now what
500 the rest of this council wants to do that's totally up to you. But I have the taxpayers telling me what, and
501 I'm going to speak in their behalf. Thank you. Ms. Samples said I'd like to correct one thing that Mr.
502 Stevens said, and that is the \$9,900-plus was approved by council. It was brought to council. We
503 approved it. There was no surprise; transparency, we put all of the checks written online [at
504 www.surfsidebeach.org] You can go see what's been written and to whom it's written. If you have a
505 question about why it was written to them, you can send the administrator an email and she is so quick
506 to respond back and tell you what the item was. But, the \$9,900 was approved by this council even
507 though the administrator, by the way, didn't have to bring it before council, because we have given her
508 authority for those expenditures. Because it was so close to her limit, she brought it to council to make
509 sure that we were good with it. We were good with that. Thank you. Mr. Ott said that \$9,000 check was
510 debated in executive session. It was never spoken on this dais, and that is where it is done. Mr. Stevens
511 said I concur with Mr. Ott. That is exactly right. Mr. Johnson said it never did have to come out into
512 public discussion, because it didn't reach the threshold of \$10,000. Let me just say, some council people
513 and people in the public, since we are in discussion, alleged that at least two councilmembers on this dais
514 received free football tickets because of that contract. Really? I wish you would've told me. I wouldn't
515 have spent so much money on my tickets. That is neither here nor there, but seriously I do not want to
516 put a threshold of less than \$10,000 for our town administrator, because it will take way too much time,
517 too much for everyone involved, if we put that restriction on contracts. It's ridiculous. We've discussed it
518 for years and years. Mr. Pellegrino said I'll just concur that Ms. Fellner brought the \$9,999 to us and it
519 was in executive session. The only reason she brought it to us was because it was so close to the
520 \$10,000. She thought it would 'look weird,' so she did inform council. Council knew about that. As far as a
521 citizen talked in the earlier comments that lowering the \$10,000 threshold won't really solve the problem.
522 I agree. If we have an issue we don't trust our employees to spend \$10,000, we've got a different issue
523 to solve. However, I would not lower it, and I think it would cause inefficiencies to lower it. I trust our
524 administrator and our directors to make decisions on \$10,000. I cannot think of one example that came
525 up; obviously, we had the financial issue with the embezzlement, but that was that was in a different
526 matter. I've been on council for years, and I can't think of one problem that we've had with that \$10,000
527 limit. I trust the administrator and the directors with that limit. Mr. Ott said I really appreciate this being
528 brought up. I was speaking with our administrator about this and I would not bring this out in public, but
529 since it's been brought out in public, I'm gonna say that I'm the one that brought it up in executive

530 session, because I saw the check on the check register. It was never brought to us as a courtesy. I'm
531 also going to say this, I've checked with Clemson, and Clemson said to me that they will not allow their
532 students or their departments to be hired to do work for any town. Added to that, I see no free tickets.
533 What we could do with a \$10,000 donation there is the possibility that you can buy special tickets from
534 Clemson. I would like a formal investigation of why we took taxpayers' money and donated it to the
535 University of Clemson. Now you opened up the door, and I want to know why there was a \$10,000
536 donation because there were two checks given to the University of Clemson. If I'm wrong, fine, but I
537 want to know where the taxpayers funds went. They were given to an organization that tells me that
538 they are a charitable organization, and we cannot give taxpayers funding to a charitable organization.
539 Nobody said anybody was getting anything free. If I look at what was shown to me here for \$10,000 on
540 that screen and I'm totally embarrassed. I would be pleased if we had a total investigation done on that.
541 Mayor Childs said I think that would take a consensus of council to do something like that. Mr. Ott, are
542 you asking for consensus of council? Mr. Ott said I don't even think we need to do that. That was an
543 accusation, and I think you need to prove. I'm going to put an end to this \$10,000 check. I want to know
544 why that money was given to Clemson to tell me what plants to put on Ocean Boulevard for \$10,000.
545 And we got nothing from them. It's years later and we're still sitting here. Where's our money? You
546 opened this door. Ms. Samples said none of us were really pleased with the presentation by Clemson.
547 But, Ms. Fellner has been front of it and she is talking to the professor at Clemson, and can get them
548 back on track. I get that Mr. Ott does not remember, or feels like he was not told, about the \$9000. I get
549 that you have made that statement, but the rest of us on council were in executive session. We did know
550 about it. We knew exactly what the professional services were gonna be and we approved it. I just want
551 to make that clear. Mr. Stevens said I sat through that presentation. I saw a presentation that took away
552 private property that literally would cost us so much money we couldn't afford it. I wondered if the
553 people ever walked down our streets, because I saw two presentations that made no sense at all, and
554 every person sitting in this room here, every person that owns a house in Surfside, including my wife and
555 I, pay taxes and we paid for that presentation. To me it looked more like a situation where the two
556 students were doing their Master's degree for Clemson University. That was not what was discussed
557 originally, which was landscaping Ocean Boulevard to make it look nice. Instead we get a wild, very
558 expensive look at what they wanted to do. Mr. Stevens detailed how the two plans offered took private
559 property to create a central tourism hub. I didn't like it, and think it is a waste of money. Mayor Childs
560 said that was not what we asked for, and we all agree it's not. We took them by the hand and told them
561 exactly what we wanted. There was a clear understanding on the town's part exactly what we wanted.
562 We had no control over what came back other than having to go back over and redo it. To give money to
563 somebody go by Chevrolet car but come back with a Cadillac; Clemson is going to redo the plan. I don't
564 know where the mix up was. It certainly was not on town's side. The confusion was on Clemson's side.
565 The administrator has been in touch with Dr. Padua, and they are going to come in with a new plan. I
566 have no reason or excuse why they didn't do what we asked. Nobody knows, but that's where we stand.
567 Mr. Ott asked if there was an agreement or a contract. We put \$10,000 of taxpayers' money [toward
568 this.] Just like when we go by that Chevy, we sign our names. Ms. Fellner said the only documentation is
569 through email messages. Mr. Ott inferred that there should be something in writing to protect the
570 taxpayer's money. Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, saying this discussion was off topic. Mr. Ott argued
571 that it is on track. Mr. Johnson said the discussion on the table is limiting the administrator's spending
572 limit. Mayor Childs said Mr. Johnson's point is taken.

573
574 **E. Proposed Mobile Food Vendor, Supervisor Ellis.** Ms. Ellis presented the discussion paper
575 and proposed ordinance, copies of which are on file. She asked Town Council for consensus to bring the
576 ordinance for first reading at the next regular meeting. Ms. Samples said I am very excited about this;
577 thank you for your time and effort to bring it to us. **Town Council CONCURRED.**

578
579
580 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

581
582 Ms. Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: To answer Ms. Samples' question, the home beauty shop

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583 across the street from me has as many as four clients at a time. As far as complaints are concerned, my
584 neighbors and I have filed multiple complaints by calling the business licensing department as well as
585 with the planning and zoning department. Perhaps this is just like the tree ordinance. Until one of you
586 wakes up and finds a beauty shop next to you, no one is going to do anything about it. On July 14th, the
587 operator of the beauty shop at 312 7th Avenue South was notified that her business license had been
588 revoked, because she did not have a license to practice cosmetology in the State of South Carolina. As
589 the shop has been in business for over a year, the operator obviously has developed the ability to slip
590 under the radar and maneuver through the loopholes in our codes. To ensure that the operators cease
591 and desists, I'm requesting that both a police and code force presence on the 300 block of 7th Avenue
592 South. Random police patrols will help eliminate the many parking violations, which cause our safety
593 concerns by the issuance of tickets. The code enforcement official's notification of code violations to the
594 clients would help to eliminate business as usual, and give us back our neighborhood. Please prove to us
595 that our efforts to restore peace, quiet, and safety to our neighborhood have not been in vain. And I
596 have to say, Mr. Stevens, thank you for putting it on the agenda. After the last meeting, I spoke to Mr.
597 Ott and Mrs. Samples who empathized with me; who said yes, this is a concern. We need to do
598 something about this, and when Mr. Stevens brought it up tonight, everyone was twiddling their thumbs.
599 I'm very disappointed in council. Again, when you wake up to find a beauty shop next you, I guess that's
600 when the matter will be resolved.

601
602 Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: I think Mr. Adair made a very good decision getting Coastal
603 Asphalt in here. In my opinion, they've done a much better job than Palmetto Paving. A couple of
604 meetings ago, council talked about doing something on Ocean Boulevard to protect our visitors. Nothing's
605 been done. [Mr.] Harry Kohlmann made a suggestion to put stop signs, and that apparently just didn't sit
606 with anybody. You can turn off Highway 17 onto Atlantic Boulevard and drive about seven miles. The
607 only stop sign or red light you have is Waccamaw Drive and Atlantic Boulevard. Other than that, you can
608 drive all the way back to Highway 17 seven-plus miles away. I thought Mr. Kohlmann had an excellent
609 idea of putting stop signs on the boulevard. You people haven't done anything about it. Maybe you
610 should listen to citizens. Last October after the storm the lift station at Dogwood Drive and 4th Avenue
611 North was discussed in council meeting for 20 or 30 minutes. Oh, we've gotta get something done. We
612 gotta get something done. Nothing's been done, folks. March the 9th the parking committee had a
613 meeting. That's five months ago, almost. Nothing's been done. It's never even been brought to council. It
614 just seems to this old cowboy that you people aren't doing the job, but it is better than going to the
615 circus.

616
617 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Yeah, I love this little town. But, as taxpayers and
618 good people who've been supporting this town for years and years and years, we do have a voice in
619 things, and we do worry about things, and that is most of the time welcomed by the Town Council. But,
620 sometimes when we ask about some, it's like, well, what do we want to know about a check that is under
621 \$10,000. Well, why don't you trust us, because we're your council and we're doing everything for you,
622 including watching the tax dollars fall out of our pockets? Well, yeah, you do a good job sometimes. But
623 what; we do have a matter of trust now and then that comes up. Over the past several years, we were
624 told that we have great, great, great audits of our books here in Surfside, and why do people worry?
625 Remember when, remember when someone said we want to SLED investigation and it was said no we
626 don't need that. Our books are fine. And it turns out we're missing \$45,000 that, oops, nobody knew
627 about. Oops. So now you're wondering why we worry about \$9,999. Well, maybe it was because we were
628 hurt when we found out in the newspapers that we were missing \$45,000, and maybe we are little bit
629 worried. We're not saying we don't trust you. But, we're saying that sometimes we think someone could
630 do something stupid. Not meaning stupid in a cruel way, but just plain stupid, and we're trying to keep
631 our eyes on our tax dollars, and were trying to oversee what everyone's doing here, and that includes
632 council. So, yeah, we did ask about that \$10,000, and we are concerned about what kind of checks
633 somebody could do without permission, because we been burnt by that \$45,000. And in closing, I would
634 like to know at some point, because I know you can't answer questions now, are we ever gonna see that
635 \$45,000 back that no one knew about that got lifted out from under us? It hurt me to find out in the

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636 newspapers that was gone. So we're worried about money here. We want to preserve this town, but we
637 want to preserve what's in our pockets, and not all end up in the poorhouse, because of a little bit of
638 stupidity now and then. And no, we can't trust everybody a hundred percent, but that's not because we
639 don't like you. It's because we were scared about economics. Thank you and God bless you.
640

641 Ms. Betty Lowery, 4th Avenue North: Boys and girls, you'll find on your desk a fact sheet 'How to
642 Guide for No Adverse Impact.' Now, this is very similar to what you expect from your doctors. Do no
643 harm. Now as part of the planning and zoning commission, we worked on the tree ordinance, and we
644 worked on it for some time. It came to you guys and you took it and decided you're going to have a
645 subcommittee, and that kind of bothered me. It is like a ghost planning and zoning, only planning. The
646 landscape and tree ordinance is important. It's been promoted almost as if it is some sort of a date, a
647 debate between personal property rights and tree huggers. That doesn't have anything to do with it. If
648 you look at the fact sheet, this comes from FEMA; it comes from the Floodplain Management
649 Commission, and as you know, all of Surfside Beach is in a floodplain. Some of us are unfortunate
650 enough to be in the flood zone. But for this, if you'll look at the very first page, if we continue to
651 encourage at risk development, and ignore the impact to others, can we accept the consequences and
652 are you willing to pay for it? The second one, no adverse impact is an approach that ensures the action
653 of any community or property owner, public or private, does not adversely impact the property rights of
654 others. Now that's what we should be doing. Now it's almost ironic that at one point it was asked how
655 long can planning and zoning have the tree ordinance before you can take away from us. And so we
656 rushed and we made sure we gave you a good product, and we gave it to you in a timely fashion. And as
657 Ms. Samples said, don't know where it went. Don't know what you're doing with it. The people who
658 wound up having it have had no training; are unfamiliar with the law, federal, state, local, and this is not
659 a criticism of those people. They are doing the best they can with what they've got. Rumor has it that
660 everybody in town hall has had a hand in it. That's not right. This affects a lot of people. If you look in
661 the last column on that top sheet; use the best available science. There's been no training there. How
662 can those people do that? Be future oriented; almost everything in the regulation is so tied to right now,
663 me personally. It's not about your back yard or your corner or your street or your front yard. This is
664 about everybody. This is about what happens when people do things that affect other people's property.
665 Involve the public; coordinate with others. Some of them were some of the public meetings, some of 'em
666 weren't on the committee. Some of you were there, some of you weren't. Review all of the alternatives; I
667 really don't think that's been done. Develop feasible recommendations; we haven't seen any. Aim high;
668 it's whatever you got right in front of you. This is not a live in the moment ordinance. What we're looking
669 at is going to carry us forward quite a way. Now, if you'll look at the second page. Take responsibility for
670 your regulations; use the best available data. Do they have that? Have a sound basis for the standards;
671 it's so confused right now I don't even know if they know what they've got. Coordinate with other
672 programs; not. Explain the rules and rationale; we haven't got that yet. Build a consensus for better
673 rules; take advantage of opportunities. It's just not there, and I'm not saying send it back to planning and
674 zoning. I'm just saying that what you have done is to create a ghost planning commission, and you've
675 included people who with the very best of intentions, and with the best heart are not actually qualified to
676 make this kind of a thing. *(Time ended.)* I'm concerned about it.
677

678 Ms. Sherry Wardle, 1st Avenue North: All I can say is I'm really glad that there are recordings by
679 the TV stations, because tonight's discussion about the \$9,999 check; we heard the administrator say
680 that there was only a chain of emails. Now, I know I can't mention names, because I will be called on a
681 point of order by a certain councilwoman, but I can tell you that the councilman in the green shirt said
682 refer to a contract. So I imagine he saw it. And, that will be recorded. So I'm getting the feeling that
683 there are some councilmembers that are aware of this situation and are trying to cover it up. Council
684 doesn't need to vote on an investigation when council may be the problem in itself. Any citizen can
685 request that, and I will. I know that I have been referred to when the administrator mentioned about
686 getting the check copies on my own. But, I have also heard from other residents that it can take several
687 months to get those check copies. Now we already know that there is transparency in those registers,
688 which says that there is a \$75 check written to Clemson Foundation back in December 2016, and

689 immediately following that there was a check for \$9,999 to Clemson University Foundation, which by the
690 way, I also contacted. I made several attempts to contact Doctor Mary Padua. She is on vacation right
691 now. When she returns, I will tell her exactly what I believe is going on here, and how she is being used
692 by this administration. Furthermore, when I contacted Clemson University Foundation, I spoke with a
693 young woman who told me that the foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. After several
694 questions that I had for her, she referred me to a gentleman, Peter Barry, I believe his name was. I don't
695 have my notes with me, but he also answered those same questions that they do not contract out
696 student services and you all know that. I believe you all know that. So that leads me to the next issue
697 here. What is being covered up? Why did we have this check written just under the threshold for council
698 approval, when only a few select people remember it? There are some people that had no comment
699 whatsoever. And then there are some that are defending it. Also the other part of that is that with a
700 donation to Clemson University, you can get the option to purchase tickets, VIP tickets from what I
701 understand. So this is it. This is for everybody else that's here. Any of these people that came to that
702 presentation, what were we all expecting? I heard people in the back saying, oh, this was supposed to be
703 about that \$9,999 check. The whole town is talking about it. We have a right to know what went on, and
704 believe me, I am going to get answers for everybody in this town, because that is our tax payer money,
705 and all of you were charged with protecting it. All of you. And if any of you are aware of any wrongdoing
706 with this and you do nothing or say nothing, that's called collusion and you are just as guilty, and I will
707 see to it that if there are any guilty parties here tonight that they are gonna be held accountable.

708 709 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

710
711 Ms. Samples: Ms. Cook, thank you for getting and sharing with us that information. I do
712 empathize with you, and sympathize with you. But it goes to my point that I was trying to make, and that
713 is this, there are rules on the books. We have an ordinance, and clearly in your situation the ordinance is
714 not being followed, and it needs to be. And so, I'm going to ask the administrator to follow up to find out
715 what's going on with that particular location. Chief Hofmann, welcome. We're grateful that you wanted
716 the job in the first place, and we're happy that the focus group made the recommendation, and that the
717 administrator supported it. Clearly, all of Council supported it. So thank you for your willingness to serve.
718 We appreciate it. Hope y'all have a great night.

719
720 Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Chief. I knew you were the best man for the job. I remember when you
721 gave me a ticket, a parking ticket. I patted you on the back, and I said you're doing your job, and you
722 appreciated that. Now you're the chief, and I'm really glad you are. Taxpayers' money. That's my job. My
723 job is to do my due diligence to watch your money, and make sure the ordinances are fair, make sure we
724 don't have undesirable businesses in town. I don't care who runs 'em. That's my job. That's why you
725 elected me, and if you don't think I'm doing my job, you can vote me out. But, that's the way it works. I
726 remember Mr. Ralph Magliette. When he was elected, and I encouraged him to run, and he pushed and
727 did everything he could to promote the businesses of Surfside Beach. We even had a; [Mr. Magliette]
728 was in on it with me, and I think Ms. Mabry and a couple of other people, we had welcome center. You
729 could go up there and get calendars or a map with all the businesses. It's gone. Why? Because somebody
730 said, oh, they went in there get monster coupon books. We've gotta push Surfside. This is the family
731 beach. We need to push that theme all over America. We are the family beach. Believe me, when I was
732 down at the Municipal Association [meeting], every time I talk to somebody from some other town, I said
733 come down to our place, we're the safe beach. We're just south about 15 miles [sic] south of Myrtle
734 Beach, and people said yes, that's what I want to come. I like that family beach. We got a great place
735 here to live at. That's why I moved here. When my daughter was growing up, I used to take her to the
736 Surfside Methodist preschool; to the library, it was on 10th Avenue, and to Fuller Park. My daughter said
737 one day, daddy, we're gonna live here, and we did, and I'm glad I moved here. This is a great beach, a
738 great place. It is a family beach and we need to promote that through our marketing, through the
739 Internet. We've got something to sell. That man right over there (*indicating Chief Hofmann*) made us the
740 safest beach anywhere around. We have the best police force, the best fire department, we've got more
741 things to be proud of in this town than any other area around this; any other place. That's a fact. Think

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742 about that when you go home. Thank you for coming out and congratulations, Chief Hofmann. If you
743 ever have to write me a ticket, I'll take it. Have a nice night.

744
745 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming. Congratulations, Chief Hofmann. I'm glad you were
746 chosen for the job. I think you're the right person for the job. Thank you very much for the public
747 comments. I know it probably frustrates you guys, because we listen public comments, and it takes us a
748 long time to do anything. Unfortunately, but we do listen. I do take notes every time. I'm writing down all
749 the comments, and I do try to follow-up, but it has to go through a process with all of us, and staff. It
750 and just takes a long time. Ms. Cook, I do agree. I wouldn't want a business next to my house and
751 people driving in now and out. I will follow-up with Ms. Fellner, also, to make sure we look at our current
752 ordinance, and see if that comes; that businesses is actually following that ordinance, and if not, we need
753 to do some work on the ordinance. Thank you for the comments, because you guys bring up points that
754 need to be addressed, and obviously, you're living with those situations, and unfortunately we either
755 don't get to 'em or don't get to 'em quick enough. We need to improve on that. Other than that, I agree
756 with Mr. Stevens. Surfside Beach is just a great place to live. We have problems. We have things we need
757 to improve on, but there's a huge upside to Surfside Beach. The people here great. It's an exciting
758 environment with the tourist. We have the beach, parks, and great services; so it is a good place. Mr.
759 Dodge, I enjoyed your comment that it is better than a circus. Adding on to that, it just wouldn't be a
760 meeting in Surfside Beach if someone up here wasn't accused of being a criminal. *(Laughter)* That goes
761 right along with it. Have a great night.

762
763 Mr. Ott: Thank you everybody who came out to the circus tonight. Actually, I am sick and tired
764 of hearing about that \$9,999 check. Not one week goes by when I don't have somebody calling me
765 asking what happened. Why is that; why was that check written. What's going on with that? I'm
766 supposed to say, oh, we gave them \$10,000 said they could tell us what flowers and bushes we can put
767 Ocean Boulevard. That's what were supposed to say. I can't say it. I'm not that stupid. So maybe
768 somebody is. I never said anybody was a crook, but I'll tell you what, somebody misused that money. I'll
769 tell you that much right now. I believe they did. That money should never been used to tell me what kind
770 of bush to put down there, cause I could've went to True Blue Nursery and they would've done it for
771 free, and then we could've taken and that \$10,000 and bought the plants. We don't even have a bush.
772 We didn't get one flower. We spent 10,000 bucks and \$75. I don't know what that was for. But, yes, I, I
773 tried to investigate that and they told me I can't, I can't hire these people. But you can give them
774 donations. I asked everybody to go on the Clemson website to look for yourself, and you'll see what you
775 can do with that donation. Thank you all for coming out, and I think this is all gonna go to bed now.

776
777 Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank all of you for coming out. On Mrs. Cook's, Mrs. Cook's comment,
778 I'd like to say that I'm not in favor of businesses in a residential area. I've been totally against businesses
779 in residential in R1, R2, and R3. Some of my councilmembers disagree with me. But, again, this is
780 something that needs to be debated in discussion. So, I'm letting you know how I feel, Ms. Cook, about
781 that. I agree with you. I've had this problem in my neighborhood right around my house, as well. Going
782 on to Mr. Dodge's comments, the parking committee had made recommendations, you know you make a
783 recommendation, it's not that easy. It's gotta be run through the administrator; it has to be run through
784 public works; there's other things that come up. Parking committee had made recommendations about
785 putting in signs or taken away signs or handicaps or adding handicaps, again you have this scrape the
786 handicap painting off the ground, which tears up the asphalt. So there's a lot of decisions that go into
787 this before I bring it up to council. As I said early under discussion, I will bring up all the parking
788 committee's recommendations whether or not they will pass, we will see up. It will be up to the council,
789 but I will be bring them up. Ms. Lowery, with the tree ordinance and the subcommittee, the problem I
790 have with the tree ordinance, I' gonna tell you straight out. I had a problem that the foundation was
791 taken out of it. The permit process was taken out of it. That's a permit; that it; that's the problem I had
792 with, and that's why, and I am gonna tell you straight out, the truth, whether you like it or not, it's gonna
793 be the truth. I had some of the planning and zoning come up here and make some terrible comments to
794 council. That's why was sent to a subcommittee to look at it. Again the tree ordinance is important.

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795 We've gotta be very careful what we do here. We have to be very careful what we do. There's gotta be a
796 permit process. You can't just have someone go up there and start cutting down trees, because that's
797 what's gonna happen and it might land on top of your house. The bottom line is gonna be I didn't need a
798 permit to take it down. We don't want that. So there's a fine line there. So before the tree ordinance
799 comes back, I hope that it comes back the right way. As far as the money goes, about letting the staff
800 spending 10,000 versus 5,000, 2,000 you could change the number all day long. If someone wants to
801 steal money, there gonna find a way. Just like it happened. As far as a person with the money that was
802 missing, we were insured, if I was correct. I believe I'm correct. We were insured for that money. We will
803 get that money back. You can put a mark on you can mark on it. You could make it 5K, you can make
804 10K, 20K. I mean you work in government, you've gotta have some flexibility. Nothing is cheap anymore,
805 so there's gotta be a line as to what our directors can spend and how they spend it. Yes, there has to be
806 oversight on it. Clemson. I think it's been said by the councilmembers how they feel about it. I don't like
807 to bring up something unless I know the facts, the absolute facts. Until I get those facts in that's when I'll
808 make my comments on it. I'm not a Clemson fan. I don't go to Clemson games. I'm a Jets fan. Sorry,
809 New York. So we don't watch college football where I come from. Again, these things, I ran this all by
810 you and this is how I feel. This the truth, and until I find the truth that's when I bring it to you. Alright.
811 So I wish you all the best. Have a great evening, and please don't forget about the show tomorrow night.
812 We have the [hula show.] What time is it, Ms. Ellis. Ms. Ellis said 7:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney said we had a
813 great turnout over the past weeks and it's been a great show. I'm glad to see everybody going out. I look
814 forward to seeing you. Thank you so much. Have a good night.

815
816 Mr. Johnson: Thank you all coming out. Everyone has pretty much mentioned a lot of things that
817 I wanted to say. I would like to congratulate Chief Hofmann on his appointment. I'm going through my
818 notes now. Someone mentioned that they could post notices on the telephone pole about paving. Well,
819 that's against the ordinance. [Laughter] Just saying. Also, thank you Ms. Lowery, for this floodplain
820 information. Two or three weeks ago, there was a class held in Conway. Most of the planning and zoning
821 commission was there. I attended. I don't know if any of the other councilmembers attended, but it was
822 very worth my while. As a former member of the planning and zoning commission, I understand the
823 importance of trees and how they relate to the issues of flooding, and so on and so forth. So, I thank you
824 very much for supplying us with this. Gosh, let's see. That's pretty much all I have to say, except for the
825 fact it's not the 'University of Clemson' it's 'Clemson University' and to be honest with you, I would like to
826 address seriously that issue. We were all under the understanding that this was a landscaping issue. We
827 all had, we were all, at least I was, under the understanding that they were going to give us a
828 landscaping plan for not just Ocean Boulevard for other areas in the town. When I came to the
829 presentation, I was honestly taken aback. I was like this is not what we signed up for or whatever. And
830 we didn't have a contract. We had an agreement. So from what I understand, they are, we are in contact
831 with Clemson, and they're gonna come back and make the wrongs right, and as it should be. Nobody is
832 trying to play games here, or put something under the rug or whatever. Everything is above board. There
833 were some mistakes made on their end. We didn't make any mistakes as far as I know. So we'll see what
834 happens. I appreciate all the town staff, and all councilmembers. Y'all need to get paid more, and staff
835 needs to get paid more. But, that's neither here nor there. That's for another meeting. Thank you very
836 much.

837
838 Mayor Childs said Ms. Lowery, I would like to thank you for your comments. I always find them
839 very interesting and very factual. So keep, keep it up. You've done a great job. As far as the landscape, if
840 anybody's ever seen lush landscape, there's a lot of difference between a landscape and planting flowers.
841 Come on; give me a break. In this landscape, and they're also going to have to take in consideration
842 water issues, stormwater issues. There's a lot of things other than planting flowers. We hope to see
843 that... To tell you in depth what it's going to be, this is probably going to have to be done in phases.
844 We're not going to be able to just go along and plant here, plant there. Whatever they do it's probably
845 gonna be over the years; it's going take the town to invest in this landscaping. I'm hoping as we do the
846 underground wiring, we take this in sections and do it along. So sooner or later we'll have something that
847 really, really looks nice, and have something that's salt tolerant, wind tolerant, sun tolerant. That's where

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848 these landscapers come in. That's exactly what we're getting. There was a mix up; everybody agrees and
849 nobody is arguing that point all. It was a mix up, and it was not on the town side. Ms. Fellner did
850 everything possible to have this thing by bringing them here, showing what we want, and where they
851 went off track, you'd have to ask them. We have no clue. But we are going to resolve that issue,
852 hopefully, soon and get what we originally wanted. So everybody be patient. We will get it done. So I'd
853 like to thank everybody for coming tonight, and I need a motion to adjourn.

854
855 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Mr.
856 Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

857
858 Prepared and submitted by Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

859
860 Approved: August 8, 2017

861
862 _____
863 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

864
865 Attest: _____
866 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

867
868 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
869 and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
870 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive.
871 In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local
872 media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry
873 door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at [www.Surfside](http://www.SurfsideBeach.org)
874 [Beach.org](http://www.SurfsideBeach.org) and the marquee.

Approved