Executive Session - 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment of a person or persons to a public body, specifically the zoning board of appeals and the stormwater committee; and pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice where the legal advice relates to pending, threatened or potential claims, specifically the Lazar lawsuit. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino (arrived at 5:30 p.m.), Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Ott moved to enter executive session at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Ott moved to reconvene regular session at 6:16 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 6:17 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, and Deputy Administrator Harrah.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Reverend Kirk Lawton of Ocean Lakes Campground Ministries gave the invocation. B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Workshop November 20, 2017, and Regular Meeting November 28, 2017. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt both the workshop minutes of November 20, 2017 and the regular meeting minutes of November 28, 2017 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I’d like to speak about under business C, first reading ordinance about the rezoning of a small portion of the pier area. Less than two years ago when I was on the parking committee, [then director] Morris came to us and she was speaking about the E zone, entertainment zone. The reason why she came to us was about parking. The way the ordinance reads right now is you need, I believe, one parking space for every four stools, which has, and we thought that was crazy. That’s, in that area you can’t do that. So what we did, we recommended that if you build something or 50-percent of the building went down, you had to rebuild, we recommended that you have to keep the spaces that you had already, be it eight parking spaces; four parking spaces; seven parking spaces, because parking is at a premium down that area. She agreed with us. She brought it to the planning commission, and they talked about it and on June 6, 2016, they concurred with us, and I read the small a small portion of the meeting minutes from June 7 [sic] 2016, page 6, the last
paragraph, last sentence:  *If construction is done, the buildings will be elevated to meet flood*

*requirements, and have parking under the building. After a brief discussion, the commission concurred to*

*move forward. Ms. Morris [is no longer employed by the town.] Now we have another, the same planning*

*commission has, this comes up again. So people we’re concerned about parking and no, no we don't*

*need the parking. We have adequate parking down there. We looked at between five and seven o'clock*

*at night. There is plenty of parking down there all months of the year. Well, that’s if people are going for*

*early bird special. Most people stay five on the beach, and in the come back on seven or eight o'clock,*

*after everyone takes a shower, and they go get something to eat. Now, I don't know if any of you know,*

*but how many spaces do you think, if this ordinance went through, where you don't need parking, how*

*many spaces would you lose? You think maybe 10, 20, 50, [or] 60? I’ll tell you what, over 150 parking*

*spaces could potentially be eliminated. You could take the Bubba’s parking lot and make a restaurant*

*there, and have no parking. If you go down to Bubba’s in the summertime, people are not only parking in*

*Bubba’s parking lot, they park in Yaupon lot. If this goes through, River City Café has two lots there,*

*(time ended) they can make one lot into a restaurant; they can keep one as parking, or they can use*

*both parking lots. I think you really making a really, really bad mistake by not doing the way it was*

*planned out to do, and I’m just really shook up that nothing changes, nothing changed in a year and half,*

*except for no parking. Mr. Johnson called point of order. Time ended. Mayor Child thanked Mr.*

*Kohlmann for his comments.*

Ms. Mary Maruca, 7th Avenue South:  I, too, would like to discuss, or give my opinion, rather on*

*the E district. Not that I’m not thinking that and E district could work, but there are some things that I*

*have issues with. One of them is outdoor music would be allowed up until 12 p.m. Well, if I were staying*

*in one of those properties in and around there and I had to listen to outdoor music, and my kids were in*

*bed at 10 or 11, I’d be kind of angry about outdoor music up until midnight, and that's part of the*

*ordinance. The parking, I have, you know, I’m not sure there’s enough parking there already. If you*

*allow all of that area to be built up completely with no parking, even if you wanted a walking district, as*

*you, as we all think it would be a wonderful thing, where are the employees going to park? That could*

*become a problem. So you need to really address parking, or no parking, as it stands right now. The*

*minimum width of the lot is going to be reduced to 35 feet, and to put it in perspective, this is a business*

*and this business is going to be allowed to build from side to side on a lot, and it’s only going to be 5 feet*

*larger than the current are R3 split lots for beach houses. These beach houses already look like, you*

*know, we've had issues saying, they don't look like they can actually fit, and we have fit them, and they*

*have to do a 5 foot minimum on each side. You're gonna allow a building to be put on small 35 foot lot,*

*and they can be 55 feet high. I think you need to look and visualize that more than what's on the paper*

*right now. And lastly, or not lastly, the minimum impervious, they don't have to have stormwater. They*

*don't have to worry about where the water goes. We are in a flood zone. We need to think about where*

*the water is going. If you're building from lot to lot, this is not like up in Surfside Drive by [Highway] 17.*

*The water went down this way. The water is; where's the water going to go in that area? We need to*

*think about it. In the E district, what's plotted right now, why is the new beautiful town parking lot*

*included in the E district? Aare we going to be giving that up, and allowing building on that or are we*

*going to keep it a parking lot so that we can have people that aren't able to walk to this walking district*

*(time ended) area to park in. Thank you.*

Ms. Erin Pate, Front Street, Georgetown:  Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I am*

speaking on behalf of the Coastal Conservation League. I am speaking just briefly about the plastic waste*

*reduction ordinance that [Ms.] Samples is introducing later in the meeting. I serve as the North Coast*

*director for the Conservation League, and my office is in Georgetown. We look out for environmental*

*concerns in Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg counties, and the Pee Dee [Florence County] area. We*

*work to protect natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, clean water and quality of life in our state, and*

*while were headquartered in Charleston, we have close to 5,000 members statewide. The Coastal*

*Conservation League wholeheartedly supports this ordinance. It sends a clear message that Surfside*

*Beach cares about wildlife and water quality. One would be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn't*

*understand that plastic bags pose a serious threat to the beach, to sea turtles, and other marine life. Sea*
turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. Once the turtle takes a bite, it must swallow the bag. The
bag can strangle the turtle, or clog its digestive system, causing it to starve to death. In addition, single
use plastic bags are difficult to recycle. Most waste management facilities do not accept single use plastic
bags with curbside pickup. As a result, only 5-percent of plastic bags are actually recycled. Compare that
to the recapture rate for paper, which now approaches 70-percent. In addition, plastics break
down into tiny particles called micro plastics. These tiny pieces of plastics act as sponges for toxins like oil
and PCBs that are already in the environment. Shrimp, oysters and fish ingest these tiny pieces of plastic
and toxins that they have absorbed. Research shows that micro plastic ingestion cuts oyster reproduction
rates in half. They have the potential to affect our own human health, as well as the health of our local
fisheries. You may have heard the mantra that reduce, reuse, recycle. Let’s focus on reducing instead of
the others. Let’s focus on reducing. A plastic bag ban will reduce the amount of plastic coming from
Surfside Beach, and will help citizens understand the damage that plastic pollution can cause.

Fortunately, (time ended) some coastal communities... May I finish this sentence? Mayor Childs said
okay. Fortunately, some coastal communities are seeing the real and long-term harm associated, and
Folly Beach and Isle of Palms have banned single use plastic bags, and Beaufort County and the
municipalities in that county are seriously considering bans, as well. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Kelly Thorvalson, conservation programs manager, South Carolina Aquarium: I actually grew
up in Georgetown, and I only tell you that because I spent a lot of time in this neck of the woods. The
Grand Strand is very near and dear place to me. These beaches right here in Surfside, I’ve spent a lot of
time growing up, and I appreciate this community. I’m here as much for that is I am to protect water,
wildlife and wild places. I’ve placed in front of your packet. Basically, it’s a letter from the aquarium
stating some research about the harms of plastic bags, primarily to sea turtles. I will speak to my
experience with the aquarium, 15 years of rehabilitating sick and injured sea turtles that wash up on the
South Carolina coast. What we are seeing at the aquarium is a tiny fraction of what actually washes up
on the beaches. It is probably about 10-percent of what washes up. Unfortunately, most turtles are dead.
Then what washes up on our beaches is actually a fraction of what’s dying in the ocean. So when I talk
about these numbers, these numbers are fraction of a fraction of what is happening in the ocean with
plastics and sea turtles. The very first turtle I encountered with plastics in its G.I. tract was in 2003.

Didn’t see it again until 2010, but since 2010 we’ve seen a marked increase. There’s a graph on the
second page, the third page of your packet that shows that incredible increase. Sea turtles have been
known for it for a long time, forever really, to be a sentinel species. They are species that really highlights
what’s happening in the ocean. They’re sounding an alarm bell that plastics are increasing really
everywhere. It’s what we’re seeing along our roadsides. I saw it driving in. It’s certainly the highest levels
it’s ever been in the ocean. It’s in the food chain from plankton all the way up into humans. I work with
turtles, and so that’s what I’m specifically talking about, but we need to be concerned. These are just
three [held up containers] of 20 samples of turtles that have excreted plastics that they ate in the wild.
All of them contain all of these three contain plastic bag type material. I’m happy to pass these around if
you’d like to see them closer. But 11 of the 20 turtles came in with plastic bag material. Plastic bags have
such a lightweight consistency that all of the single use plastics they tend to blow around. You don’t
find them on the beach as much, you find them in trees and on roadsides. But once they hit the ocean,
water fills the bags and submerges them and then they’re there for prey for sea turtles and lots of other
marine life. They break down really quickly into those micro plastics, and they are eaten by, like I said,
plankton, fish, and really everything up the food chain. They are quite possibly the easiest thing to
eliminate (time ended) in terms of single use plastics. I applaud you considering it and for being a leader.
You could be the leader on the Grand Strand for reducing plastic.

Mr. Richard Lorentz, chairman of the local Sierra Club: I am also a local business owner. I own
Black River Outdoors, a kayak tour company. I’m gonna try not to repeat everything people have already
said about the plastic bag ban. As a kayak tour operator, we see a lot of it first-hand. We’ve rescued
three sea turtles on our tours that suffered from plastic bag ingestion. There's one in the sea turtle
hospital right now that fortunately is recovering nicely after their care. We see the plastic bags, because
were in the saltmarsh in Murrells Inlet a lot and the stuff that blows into the ocean, a lot of it ends up
washing into the saltmarsh; it's just the way that the tides go, that's where it ends up getting caught. So
you may not see it all the time, but it's out there where all the wildlife is. We clean up everything we can.
I was talking to Mr. Stevens before the meeting, you know it's not that people are just throwing their
everywhere plastic bag, the little straws that go in your cocktails. I think some people are gonna miss those, but
they cause major problems. I'm not environmentalist and I'm not an activists. We did this stuff, we made
these decisions because we think it's the right thing to do. We looked at this some years ago. The cost
was tenfold. We wanted to do it then. This was probably in the early 2000's. It was something that not
only was the cost literally tenfold, but the products weren't there yet. I am up here tonight to speak to
any business owners in Surfside Beach that have questions about it, because over the years the costs
have come down on these products, and the products that are out there now, the compostable to-go
boxes, compostable paper straws, they're about three times as expensive now. That may sound
shocking to some of the other business owners. I come from the same camp. I'm a business owner.
We're looking at ways to mitigate those costs by reducing our plastics. It's not just about going to a
compostable straw, but it's about training our staff. It's about talking to them about these things. The
straws, they're paper straws, but how about handing them out just on request. Try to mitigate the stuff
to minimize the costs. The Dead Dog and the Claw have made these commitments. I sit on a board with
the other restaurant owners. My partner and I will would love to see this become a trend. We don't need
an ordinance to get passed behind this, we love to see a coalition of all the Grand Strand waterfront
restaurants make an effort to reduce their single use plastics. We have a big impact. We're a big
restaurant. We have 800 seats between the two stores. We understand we have a big impact. This just
seems like a no-brainer, easy way to go about being as responsible business owner as we possibly can.
I've come to know Dauphin-A (?) a little bit connecting through Facebook and the wonders of social
media. You know, people with different interests; I'm a businessman, there's environmentalist, there's
activists. I don't fall under any those categories. I'm a businessmen and people with different interests
and still share common goals. I think working together with these great folks, like I said, even though I
don't understand much about the ordinance, I'm in support of its goal. Dauphin-A shared something
great with me that Ann and Kirk, the folks at the Rustic Table read an article about us making these
productions, and I believe they said that directly they were making these changes because they read the
article, and that that made happier, I think, making the changes ourselves (time ended) that someone
else saw this change and acted on it. So I just want to say one more thing. If there's any in a local
business owners that ever have any questions about how we were able to make these changes that's
what I'm here to do is to talk to them and explain to them how they can do about it.

Mr. John Campbell, Pawleys Island: I've been in the area for about 17 years. My family owns
and operates the Dead Dog Saloon and the Claw House restaurants on the Marshwalk [in Murrells Inlet.]
I'm basically here to support an ordinance that I don't know much about, but I am a big advocate
towards single use plastic reduction. Some time ago, my partner Peter Hutchins and I made an
announcement to eliminate all Styrofoam at the restaurants that we own. We're eliminating plastic bags,
and eliminating the little straws that go in your cocktails. I think some people are gonna miss those, but
they cause major problems. I'm not environmentalist and I'm not an activists. We did this stuff, we made
these decisions because we think it's the right thing to do. We looked at this some years ago. The cost
was tenfold. We wanted to do it then. This was probably in the early 2000's. It was something that not
only was the cost literally tenfold, but the products weren't there yet. I am up here tonight to speak to
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else saw this change and acted on it. So I just want to say one more thing. If there's any in a local
business owners that ever have any questions about how we were able to make these changes that's
what I'm here to do is to talk to them and explain to them how they can do about it.

Ms. Corrine Hilliard, Burgess: My family has several properties and live here in Surfside. I am an
activist. However, I make it very clear that while I do support environmental issues, it's only through the
I commend the effort, and it seems like a positive move. I hope it works out. Within close proximity, within three, four or five blocks of the pier area to walk there, so that they don't need parking. I commended the effort, and it seems like a positive move. I hope it works out.

Mr. Matt Scalise, Scalise Realty: My family owns numerous businesses in the affected area, and I've been trying to stay up to speed as far as the details of the ordinance, which obviously our family is in support of. It seems like it makes a lot of sense, and I just feel like I wanted to come up and say I feel like members of Town Council and staff and the commission who have been working on this, and collaborating on this, to me, should be commended for basically having a progressive attitude towards something that is pro-business that's going to help the town, and generate more of a tax base. Most people; Town Council understands, but most of the voters don't realize that roughly 90-percent of the tax base is made up by the commercial district in the R3 rental district. The vast majority of the services that the town provides are made up of the tax base associated with those areas, and not in the absence of adopting ordinances like this, I think it's inevitable that two things; one of two things that are going to have to happen: either taxes have to go up or services are going to have to be cut. Some of the same people who are opposing the entertainment district ordinance now or the going to be the same people that are going to be opposing a tax increase, and be upset with Town Council, if they end up having to vote for a tax increase, which nobody wants. But, it's those type things; those type decisions are going to be inevitable, if things are done that are more pro-business oriented. In area like Surfside pier area and within any resort area, you always have a limited amount of parking. I think some of the concerns about what potential changes that could happen are not well-founded, and I think they were grossly exaggerated. We all know that the ground-level spaces that are in the in the affected area in the entertainment district proposed area they're grandfathered structures, and the buildable footprint of the structures cannot be increased. Furthermore, the, if any one the owners of those affected structures that are below the floodplain, below the base flood elevation, if they spend any money on those properties they can only spend 48-percent of the value of the improvements every five years. So there's a lot of limitations that a lot of people don't realize that are going to limit the impact. As far as other parking issues, we all know that even already parking is a commodity, and we all know that. But I think we want to bring more people in the town, and one of the things from what I understand is the impact, the intent is to encourage more of a pedestrian atmosphere, with larger sidewalks to encourage all the people within close proximity, within three, four or five blocks of the pier area to walk there, so that they don't need parking. I commended the effort, and it seems like a positive move. I hope it works out.

Lowe's, and the grocery stores are in areas that already have these bans in place. There's protocols in order for them to move forward. They have them. They just need a little push from us to let them know that we would like for them to use them. A lot of the Dollar General and the BI-LO [stores] can take their current inventory and send it to another location. You can do proprietary bag. Where I come from Wegman's is huge. These bags build huge brand loyalty to your store, and then as you can see, they also do Christmas ones. People are willing to buy into the programs. You have a room full of residents, I'm sure you'd love to hear more from about how much we want to see this happen. We'd love to get your support on moving that forward. So, thank you very much.
6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Employee Awards. Mayor Childs presented a 25 year award to Willie Myers, and a 10 year award to Patrick Ryan, both of whom work in public works. Vickie Mattingly, finance department, and Christina Mueller, police department were unable to attend to receive their 5 year awards. Mr. Myers and Mr. Ryan received standing ovations.

B. Administrator’s Report. Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Ott asked if Ms. Fellner could invite the infrastructure committee to meetings with Santee Cooper, and utility companies so the members could listen to discussion. Ms. Fellner said yes, that will be done from now on. Ms. Samples said I understand that we’ve not heard anything from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) about the pier. What is your best guess, where are we as it relates to timeframe for hearing from FEMA. Ms. Fellner said they contacted SCEMD (South Carolina Emergency Management Division). I reached out to them, and Ms. Ryan shared the email from FEMA stating that they were in additional discussions. I think what happened is a good thing, a positive thing. The last outreach that I had was to ask them to please, and this was to Senator Graham’s office, and to Congressman Rice’s office, to please have the FEMA representatives in Region 4 find out why Region 2 is so successful in making these projects work. I think that’s what’s going on, and I think that’s what’s taking the additional time. Having said that, they have said that they hoped to get back to us this week or at the latest, next week. That’s what the email said. Ms. Samples said I really appreciate that. I know you have done everything humanly possible to move this along. I’m certainly appreciative of that. Some of us have certainly talked in these council chambers before about this. At some point in time, probably soon, we’re either going to have to make a tough decision to cut it loose and make some decisions on our own to get the pier built back. I just think at some point in time we just have to say we can’t wait any longer, because we’re going to go another summer or two without our pier. Ms. Fellner said nobody wants that. Mr. Johnson said I totally agree with Ms. Samples. We probably should’ve had this conversation months ago, whether we got the FEMA approval or not, because of all the meetings that we held pretty much said we wanted to build pier back bigger and better. Now we been waiting for FEMA’s permission. It’s up to council what we want to do. I would like to say maybe one month, if we don’t hear anything back from them that we need to take action on our own. Mr. Pellegrino said I did mention this in a meeting here last April. I said we should think about dumping FEMA and going off on our own and just building our pier back, because I was worried about this exact situation. Obviously for this coming summer were done. Could you talk to the engineers to find out how late we can go to make the decision to ensure that we have the pier for the summer of 2019? Ms. Fellner said I can get that for you. Mr. Stevens said I agree that we’re waiting much too long on the pier. The pier is the central point of the town and is one of the reasons that people come to Surfside. We need to go ahead and get involved and do something on it. In addition, I know that we got funding from SCDOT (South Carolina Department of Transportation) to pave from Melody Lane all the way to Highway 544. Do you have an update on that? Ms. Fellner said that was paragraph 1. C. in the written report that was just read. Paving will be the last thing done. The reason is because we’ve got to do a lot of burrows under the road to bury the cross wires on Highway 17. Mr. Stevens asked what Ms. Fellner estimated the start date for that project. Ms. Fellner said they hope project construction will start in fall 2018, if everything continues on schedule. They plan to let this and open the bids sometime in J une. Mr. Stevens said unfortunately, the Affordable Care Act cost the town a 954-percent [sic] increase. I hope that Congress will do something to eliminate these skyrocketing prices with healthcare. Mr. Courtney said I think everybody in this council had agreed that we do need an answer. I’ve been beating this drum for six months, and actually have been criticized a few times in the paper about it. We’re going on two years. We need to move forward with the pier, but I’m not willing to drop FEMA. My question is can we move forward without FEMA and still receive those approved funds. Ms. Fellner said no. You either get the grant or you don’t get the grant. There’s no just going ahead and doing it. Mr. Courtney said by doing it ourselves, we will not get the grant. Ms. Fellner said we won’t, and we started negotiations at $97,000 and we’re up to 5.6 million. So we’ve got some leverage; we have some money there. That money doesn’t have to go away. That money could be used,
and I think that’s what Ms. Samples and Mr. Johnson were talking about. This council may have to make a decision at some point. You know what, we don't want to wait any longer. Let’s go back with what we can, which would be probably a wood pier for the $5.6 million. So I think that’s what they are talking about. We would be eligible for that amount of grant money, but we couldn't go ahead and start on a different project with a different scope of work. We’d have to say that were going to go with that initial program and just simply go with that, and that would be it. And then there would be nothing new. They would not consider additional funds funding or anything of that nature. So we've come a long way. We’re just waiting. Again, this is FEMA Region 4, and I believe Region 4 is talking to Region 2, which is a wonderful thing that hasn't happened before. Mayor Childs asked for an explanation of the two regions. Ms. Fellner said Region 4 is based in Atlanta, and they handle the Southeast coastal areas. One of Region 2’s biggest areas is in New Jersey and New York. They have the Rockaway Boardwalk. That was a 200+ million dollar project that was done. It has the exact same qualifications as our pier. That was done through the 428 program. Right now that region has over 500+ million dollars obligated to 428 projects. We don't have any 428 projects in Region 4 that I'm aware of and I asked the question, and no one could tell me why. I'm just hopeful that now we'll find a way where Region 4 can understand what Region 2 is doing so successfully. Mayor Childs said we're using Region 2 as precedents that you done it for them, and we qualify to do it for us. Ms. Fellner said yes. We have all the same qualifications. We meet all of them. Mayor Childs said once they understand between the two regions, we feel that we are on a good road to having this done. You did it here, so do it for us. Ms. Fellner said we certainly hope so.

Again, we have no control over their timetable. Mr. Courtney said the taxpayers hired Hagerty consultants, right? Ms. Fellner said yes. Mr. Courtney asked what the consultants advised at this point. Ms. Fellner said they think that everything is proceeding as normal. Hagerty has been great. Anytime we need information; anytime we need a special report; anytime we need anyone to talk ‘FEMA speak’ with the FEMA people, they are right there, and they are right on the money all the time. I mean anytime FEMA says something, they're able to come back and point to examples that no one hadn't been in that business for decades would know. They're experts at what they do. Mr. Courtney asked if they suggested a time when they will give up on FEMA. Ms. Fellner I don't think anyone wants to go much beyond the winter. The reason is then you'd have to do an appeal. We all know what appeals for FEMA are like. You can win them, but in the end you're talking years and years and years. Some appeals take three years. I don't think this council is willing to do that. I think a lot of residents have spoken to councilmembers about that. Mr. Courtney complimented and thanked Ms. Fellner for working on the issue that we had on Dogwood Avenue North at Lift Station 171. This isn't one councilmember, all councilmembers try to do everything they can for this community. The wall had come down during Hurricane Matthew, and an odor was coming from that lift station. I spoke to Mr. Smith and I also contacted you. The Grand Strand Water Authority blamed the town, which I was instructed by you that you had no idea of this about permitting. But thank you very much for your help. Grand Strand Water has sent out the bid to have the wall put back up as it existed prior to the hurricane. I do thank you for helping on that. Ms. Fellner said you're welcome. Mr. Stevens asked if the information about the pier could be published on the town website. Ms. Fellner said all of that information is already on the website. Mr. Stevens suggested that anyone with questions about the pier visit www.surfsidebeach.org. If we build a wood pier, the next storm will destroy it.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0858 to amend § 2-113 Duties of the Town Administrator. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #17-0858 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. Samples said she would not vote in favor of this, because I think it is a massive mistake. Mr. Pellegrino said we're changing the administrator's duties to prevent lawsuits, but as the administrator mentioned during her report, the last two employee related lawsuits were decisions of Town Council. That's kind of interesting. Mr. Johnson said I would just like to read the changes:

Department Directors. The town administrator shall recommend department directors to Town Council and appoint the recommended director upon approval by Town Council. The town administrator shall terminate department directors for cause upon presenting cause to and receiving approval from Town
Mayor Childs explained that there were clerical errors. Mr. Johnson said the document in his packet was different from the one presented. Mayor Childs explained that there were clerical errors. Mr. Harrah said the corrected ordinance was emailed earlier today and also placed on the dais this evening. Apologies were offered; the wrong document was sent because the document went through several different versions. The corrected version was also published on the website, and emailed to the subscription list. Mr. Johnson said I certainly hope that won’t happen again. Mr. Harrah said yes, sir. All members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0861 to amend Chapter 17, Article 6, Signs, Deputy Administrator Harrah. Mr. Ott moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance 17-0861 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. Mr. Harrah presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. Samples said I appreciate the fact that you have incorporated state law into this ordinance and its changes. My question is as it relates to political signs, the ordinance is changed from allowing signs to be displayed for 30 days to 45 days. Was that a state law requirement or was that something brought forward from the planning commission? Mr. Harrah said the town attorney recommended that based on his findings. Ms. Samples said personally, I don’t like 45 days. I prefer 30 days. I think having political signs out for 45 days is just way too long. Certainly, I would like to see that changed. But if it’s something that this council feels strongly about pushing forward, then I will certainly not hold it up. Based on the ordinance as you presented it, I see it is mainly housekeeping. I have no issues except the 45 days for political signs, which is a long time to have signs out. Mr. Harrah said yes, and this is also to make sure that it complies with the Supreme Court ruling on signs. Mr. Johnson said the document in his packet was different from the one presented. Mayor Childs explained that there were clerical errors. Mr. Harrah said the corrected ordinance was emailed earlier today and also placed on the dais this evening. Apologies were offered; the wrong document was sent because the document went through several different versions. The corrected version was also published on the website, and emailed to the subscription list. Mr. Johnson said I certainly hope that won’t happen again. Mr. Harrah said yes, sir. All members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

C. First Reading Ordinance #17-0862 to amend Chapter 17, Article 3, Rezoning of a small portion of the pier area in the C3 Amusement District to Entertainment District, Deputy Administrator Harrah. Ms. Samples moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0862 as presented. Mr. Pellegrino second. Mr. Johnson asked what the maximum height is. Mr. Harrah said 55 feet is the correct height. Mr. Pellegrino said I’m all for the entertainment district. I think would be good to make a destination for people to come visit. However, we’ve heard many concerns from citizens about parking. The verbiage does not have much about it. Do we have any plans for parking plan or anything like that if we were to expand and bring in more businesses? Mr. Harrah said right now parking is a prime concern, and it also is a problem. Will it continue to be a problem? Absolutely. Until this body decides it wants to address the parking issues down on the boulevard area, whether it be acquisitions, construction. At some point time that is going to be a decision this body will have to consider. Ms. Samples said I too like the idea of an entertainment district, especially for those people who are your visiting our beach. I do have concerns about parking, as well. Mine question relates to the parking lots that we currently have. Is there any way in this ordinance that we could include that the existing parking lots stay parking lots? Mr. Harrah said you could actually incorporate language that parking lots that do not have existing structures on them shall remain parking lots, which would keep the current parking lots as they exist. Ms. Samples said I think that would certainly be helpful for us to take a look at that and be mindful of the fact that those existing parking areas need to remain parking areas. If council would be so inclined, it would be great to include that language. I’m not sure of the rules that would apply to that but I certainly would like to take a look at it. It would really create some problems if we did something at Yaupon that would eliminate any parking there or at that parking lot at River City. Mr. Harrah said that’s correct. That can actually be incorporated within the ordinance at second reading. Ms. Samples asked Mayor Childs if
he would ask for consensus from council that option to be brought back. Mayor Childs asked for consensus to include a restriction to ensure parking lots that do not have any buildings in the E district remain as they currently exist. Council CONCURRED.

Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with that a hundred percent, but to me it should be stated that we keep the same number of spaces; we can’t eliminate spots, if we do some sort of change or development, that we need to maintain the same number of spots, not necessarily the same space. If you have 20 spots, we need to end up with 20 spots, and not eliminate any spots for any other business next-door or that business. That would give more flexibility. I think the verbiage should be based on maintaining the same number of parking spots that exist, not eliminating any. Mr. Ott said I agree that we need to have clarification for parking, and if I vote for the first reading, if there’s no total clarification, I will not for the second reading, even though I do want this to happen. The River City parking lot belongs to them. You can’t tell them they can’t take the parking away and build a building there. Mr. Harrah said in the Land Use Regulations under the Zoning Ordinance, it states that if it doesn’t have an existing building, but used as a parking lot, you can you can keep that [parking] use. Mr. Ott said that did not sound right to him that they must make a parking lot out of their property. Mr. Harrah said not must, but retain. They can change it with the way the use as stated right now without having any language in here that keeps it from changing, because it’s like to say, there’s no restrictive use language in the current zoning laws. So as a business owner, they can come in tomorrow and pull a permit to build a structure on there with a set of plans, and there’s no stopping it. With the language of no structure on it currently, it has to remain. That protects not only the town, but all those other parking lots. Mr. Ott said there were between 25 or 30 parking spaces that you could lose there. It is deeded to these people. That wouldn’t be good for town to tell them that they must keep it is a parking lot. Mr. Pellegrino said I agree with Mr. Ott. I think if you tell them that that it has to stay parking lot; I mean that’s their land. That’s why think verbiage should explain expressly that you need to maintain the same number of spots for that businesses, and obviously for new businesses that come in there needs to be a standard for them to have spots also. But I really think it should be that you can’t eliminate spots in existing businesses. If you build or sell off a piece of land for development, you need to figure out how to use the rest of your land to gain those spots back. Ms. Samples said if you are going to build a restaurant, you have to have a certain amount parking spots, anyway. Correct? Mr. Harrah said correct, the way it states right now. Ms. Samples said River City needs that parking lot for their patrons. Mr. Harrah said correct. Ms. Samples said the pier area is flat at the moment, because we don’t have a pier. We know that the businesses down there have felt the burden of not having it, and I just would like for us to think about some ideas and opportunities that we can improve upon in that area, and make it more business friendly, and increase business space down there. So I’m glad you’re having the conversation and I’m of the mind that whatever we can do within the law to encourage businesses in that area, and to expand, I think we need to do. Mr. Courtney said I’m concerned about the parking, too. Residents have spoken about this. It seems it’s going to be a problem. We do need to accommodate people for parking. Are we going to see a parking garage next is my question? I’m all for an entertainment district. You have elderly people; you have handicapped people; you need parking. As a rule of thumb from what I know is you need a spot for a table, every four seats, if I’m correct. So this concerns me, as well. I will definitely move forward, but I will not come back on the second reading, if we don’t resolve this parking issue. The last thing I want to do is see people start parking in people’s driveways, and the right-of-way in front of their houses, because then we’re defeating the parking; the whole idea of getting the revenue from the parking from the pier. The parking committee made recommendations with employee parking over a year ago that was never implemented. Then it was told to me that it was implemented, but they only sold two passes. Our parking committee made a recommendation to give those decals free, and that was supposed to be along Surfside Drive in that area where we have those parking spots with the one hour parking signs. This is a problem; we need to address it. Mr. Ott said I need to reiterate with the parking lots that belong to that restaurant, because we can look at the restaurant that’s on the pier, they have no parking. They use the Town of Surfside Beach’s parking lot. So why can’t they use that parking lot, too? We can’t demand that they establish a parking lot when nobody else has to do that. This is a serious problem. In my opinion, we need to see which way were going to go with parking. Mr. Harrah said it is, and it’s an ongoing
problem. With a landlocked area you’re confined, and that’s one of the issues that the town has faced.

Sometime back there was a proposal for a parking garage and a transit trolley going from one area to another, all part of the parking issues. You have to think about some aspects to really bring forth the potential transit availability within the community. So those are things that will be a factor in the upcoming years. Council has to determine how to make a make that availability, whether it’s from an existing parking place on [Highway 17] and have a some sort of transportation shuttle going from there down to this district and back. This is not just a town of Surfside issue. Everybody has these issues.

Go to Charlotte, they have these issues. Myrtle Beach has them. Everybody that has a tourist industry has a parking issue. You just have to come up with creative ways to tackle it. Mr. Ott said Mr. Harrah, I think you will come up with creative way for us. (Laughter) Mr. Harrah said I will do my best. Mr. Johnson said as far as the businesses on the pier and the parking, the town owns the pier, so that never really came into play as far as the restaurant, the ice cream shop, and the bait and tackle shop. I will go another step further, I honestly, really do not want to see a three, four or five story resort going up on Surfside Drive. I just don’t know that that’s what we want to do as a town. I may be wrong, maybe some other councilmembers feel differently. But that’s what I’m concerned about. If this ordinance goes through, obviously, it we’ll pass it tonight or maybe not. We can look at it again. I just; that’s my biggest concern. Mr. Harrah said if I try to understand where your concern is coming up Surfside Drive away from what this district would be is the potential of mixed units, live-work units and those kind of things?

Mr. Johnson said no, I’m all for mixed use the way up and down Surfside Drive. I’m talking about hotels and motels. Mr. Stevens said I noticed that you’ve reduced the size of the lot from 5,000 to 3,000 and you’ve reduced the setback from front yard setback 20 feet to 0 feet, rear yard setback from 10 feet to zero feet, and side yard setback to zero feet. Are you saying that if the lot is 3,500 square feet that the building will fill that entire lot? Mr. Harrah said you technically could, but you’ve got the constraints of the building codes to be able to build that which is going be a structure that’s will be more secure, more safe and more fire resistant than a typical wood frame structure. The setback requirements not only in zoning, but the building codes also have setbacks that defer to the type of construction that that building could be built by. The closer you get proximities, the more restrictive that code gets. Mr. Stevens said the height is 55 feet, which is the same as in the C3 district. The Surfside Beach Resort is well over 55 feet. If a storm came through and destroyed that building, could it be rebuilt? Mr. Harrah said no, the height restriction is 55 feet. Mr. Courtney said hypothetically could River Café put a parking garage there? Mr. Harrah said I would have to check the use chart in the code book, because there is such a long list. I would say there is a good possibility. Mr. Courtney asked if this ordinance was adopted, could they? Mr. Harrah said they could not. Mr. Courtney asked if the parking committee was consulted for recommendations when this was presented to the planning commission. Mr. Harrah said no, because this basically already came out of planning and zoning in 2016 with a parking that doesn’t comply with the code. Mr. Courtney said the residents and some councilmembers are concerned about the parking issue.

I think we do have a problem with this. I think it needs to be looked at again. Mr. Harrah said you can go any route council would like; it’s entirely up to council. Mr. Pellegrino said I just want to make clear that I would like to see this come back for second reading with verbiage to maintain the same number of parking spots. Mayor Childs said that is what the consensus was. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Employee Insurance Plan Premium Increase, Administrator Fellner. Mr. Ott moved to adopt the premium increase for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield program. Mr. Stevens second. Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. The finance subcommittee recommends approval of the new rates. Mr. Courtney asked who would absorb the cost. Ms. Fellner said the town would pay $31,358; $8,121 will be paid by the employees. Mr. Courtney said so that raise that we gave them… Ms. Fellner said is in effect going to pay their insurance. Mr. Johnson said I haven’t done the math but can you give me an average of what an employee pays. Ms. Fellner referred to the attachment to the decision paper, which outlined the costs and who pays. Mr. Johnson asked if councilmembers are eligible to participate in the insurance. Ms. Fellner said yes, they are, but none participate at this time. Mr. Courtney said as we stand now we have problems retaining employees and I think is been a big impact. It’s another problem we’ll be facing the road. Ms. Fellner said I think we’re going to be addressing that at the vision meeting. It’s already on agenda, and we’re already working on
E. Committee Appointments: i. Zoning Board of Appeals (1 vacancy) Mr. Jon Dougherty, and ii. Stormwater Committee (1 vacancy) Mr. Ronald Mask. Mr. Pellegrino moved to appoint Mr. Jon Dougherty to the zoning board of appeals and Mr. Ronald Mask to the stormwater committee. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

F. Motion and/or directions to the Town Administrator from Executive Session. Mr. Pellegrino moved to give the administrator and the town attorney authority to attend the mediation on behalf of the town. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

A. Plastic Waste Reduction, Councilmember Samples. I appreciate the opportunity to have a discussion about plastic waste reduction. Plastic bag pollution has become an epidemic. Solving the issues, in my opinion, begins at the local level. I think this discussion is way overdue. I would like to begin a dialogue about what the Town of Surfside Beach can do as it relates to the plastic bags. There are towns that have already enacted a plastic bag ban, Folly Beach and Isle of Palms. There many towns all over the United States that are enacting these bans, but in South Carolina those two areas have certainly come out on the forefront. I feel that in the Town of Surfside Beach we need to have the vision and long-term commitment in protecting our beach and our ocean. Interestingly enough, both the plastic industry and the fossil fuel industry are opposed to us discussing any bans. As a matter of fact, some state legislators have already been calling councilmembers, because we have it on discussion only. It's amazing. They've already begun to lobby and influence selected leaders so that we don't begin the dialogue. Back in March, these groups, and these are the same groups that like offshore drilling, but these groups have spent vast amounts of money to block a Home Rule initiative back in March. It's called H3529. That initiative is to prevent local officials such as Town Council here in Surfside of discussing or enacting such bans. As you are aware, Home Rule is what allows us to make decisions in town for our town and our residents. Our state legislators in Columbia don't want to allow us to do that. We are a coastal community. This is very important to us. It certainly should be important to us. A study was commissioned by Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA), and those of you who attend council meetings often, hear Mr. Adair stand before us and tell us that come this spring, the SWA is not going to accept any plastic bags with leaves or debris in them. Therefore, the town's not going to be able to pick them up. A study was commissioned by the SWA in 2016 that provided the composition of garbage from various parts of the county; plastic bags, specifically grocery and shopping bags. The data shows the Town of Surfside Beach, which we do recycle, as a matter fact we were one of the first towns to recycle in the State of South Carolina, and certainly we recycle on our beach. A lot of beaches do not recycle. Everything that is recycled in our town is diverted from the landfill leaving more space in the landfill. However, single use plastic bags are not recyclable through the Horry County SWA. A sampling of Surfside Beach residential trash was taken. Based on that sampling, each Surfside Beach trash truck has an average of 1308 bags headed to the county landfill during anyone run. That's significant. I'm not an expert on plastic bag reduction or waste. I'm certainly an advocate for my beach and our ocean. I think it's important that we take the time and do the research and become educated on our environment on our beach and as it relates to our oceans. We can experience cleaner streets, parks, the beach, and the ocean. We can stop plastic bags from getting into our stormwater drains, and clearly, we're going to reduce the threat to wildlife. I just think that, again, the discussion has been long overdue. I think I would love for this Town Council to consider directing staff to look at or mirror what Folly Beach has done and what Isle of Palms has done. They've already done all the hard work for us. It's in place. It's working for them. They've been a success. Businesses have not complained. It's all been positive a move and for us as a council to have a vision and plan for the future of this town, not just about what's happening today or tomorrow, but what can happen two years from now and four years from now and 10 years from now. I just think that we need to start talking about it. I would like to ask the mayor if he would ask this council if they would be willing to put this on an agenda as a business item in hopes that town staff
can bring forth a draft ordinance that they will have received from, hopefully, Folly Beach or Isle of Palms and provide us with some details and specifics on how the town can go about reducing plastic waste. Mayor Childs called for consensus to add this to the January 9 business agenda. Council CONCURRED.

Mr. Stevens said as a hunter and fisherman, nothing irritates me more to be down in the river fishing and see Styrofoam cups, and plastic bags. Sometimes when I cast my cricket, I pull up a plastic bag. I talked to Mr. Lorenz. When we go to Sandy Island I see people littering and I wonder if they do that at home. The environment, whether you're a naturalist or the environmentalist or a hunter or fisherman, you love the outdoors. There's nothing I love more than seeing clear, clean water when I'm in my boat. I see trash when I fish in the inlet. This is a good thing. He said none of the legislators called him, but he would have said they were stupid to oppose this. My only question is what we do about the big stores like Walmart, and the other big companies all over the world? Somebody needs to start working on them. I reckon you have to start somewhere. I reckon we have to take that first step. I think this is a good idea. Ms. Samples brought up a good idea. I know that a lot of you support that. I think this council would be taking a bold step in doing this. Mr. Ott said I agree with both of my councilmembers and I'd like to make a motion to make … Mr. Johnson reminded Mr. Ott that council was in discussion. Mayor Childs said the consensus was already made. Mr. Johnson said I was on my way to the Municipal Association meeting this morning. I heard on the radio our local House District #106 Representative Russell Fry talk about this same issue. He doesn't have an issue with plastic bags. He has an issue about impoloring the local businesses to not have them. He feels like that's an overreach. I don't disagree with. There was a Bill in 2017 to bring it to council. The guy who presented didn't get reelected, but it's coming back in January to the House, where they will take it up. I think we need to sit back and see what the House does, and the State does, because it's all about education, not regulation. (**Gavel; several speaking at once.) I'm a naturalist. I hunt and fish. I with you guys, but I just have a concern about regulating plastic bags. Mr. Ott said to answer the questions that were asked, Walmart has a procedure, because this is not a new thing that just happened in the Town of Surfside Beach. This is going all over, in fact, all over the world. This is going to stop these bags from being used, if we like it or not, and you need to investigate, because Walmart has a procedure to deal with it, and you can see what Publix gave me; they give you these for free. You can go to Cost-Co; they don't have any bags. There is another food store on 17, Aldi, you have to bring your own bags. So it's a process that is going to be part of our lives, if we like it or not.

Mr. Johnson suggested a survey all the businesses to see what they have to say. Ms. Samples said first, let me remind you that many councils ago were pretty bold and out front on a smoking ban that nobody wanted passed. We had a very educated, informed council who said, you know what, we think it's a bad thing and we're going to step out and we're going to do it. They had a lot of businesses that came before council and said no; you're going to hurt our businesses. The very same businesses came back six months later, a year later, and said no, guess what? It was a good thing. They liked it. We are the elected leaders. Let's not push this off on somebody else. We were elected to make the tough decisions. Let's make the tough decisions. If you don't want to support it. That's cool. You don't have to support it. But let's don't delay. Let's don't push it off on somebody else. Let's do it ourselves. We were elected to make the tough decisions. Let's make them. Mr. Johnson said that's fine. I have no problem with that. Let us ask the businesses to see what they have to say. We are pro-business, allegedly. Mayor Childs said Ms. Samples was quite right. This town for those who spoke earlier has been very proactive in issues like this. She was right about the smoking [ban]. I was one of [that council that adopted that ban.] They were ready to tar and feather us on the smoking ban, and now it's gone through and everybody's happy. The businesses actually have done better than they did before, so this is something that I agree with Ms. Samples that we certainly have to look into. There are a lot of places other than this town that have gone to other than plastic bags. Mr. Courtney said I like to hear everyone. I like to be fair. I like to hear both sides. I'm in favor of cleaning up pollution. It's not just only the bags, it's the Styrofoam and the other stuff that goes with it. I looked in this year ago, and I really did a lot of work on it and what I saw was, I'll be fair with you, the big stores had no problem. I reached out to Dollar General. They came out and said we have no problem with it. If you implement the ordinance, we'll obey it. The consumer
B. Live Streaming Council Meetings, Councilmember Samples. Ms. Samples said I want to thank Mr. Ott for his support on this initiative. We have an opportunity to reach a lot of residents. This is a small chamber, and few residents can attend. Most of our town residents have no idea what happens in council meetings. They get the recording after the meeting and they get the minutes shortly after that, but wouldn’t it be great if we could do what other municipalities and cities and towns do, and that’s live stream our meetings. That way everyone could see what’s happening up here, and not just the people who live here, but those people who have homes here and have vested interest here. They can watch what’s happening in their town. We get the local media that show up and do a fine job. They get 30 seconds and a soundbite. With the fact that we have no pier and that we’re in discussions about that; the fact that we are going to be reviewing all of our ordinances, which I think it’s a great idea, and we’re going to be making changes that most residents are not gonna know we’re making, or they’re not gonna know what’s happening, or they don’t know what the rules are, and they wait till the weekend to do something, and there is the town hall to answer their questions, so they could have seen what was going on in the meeting and something being discussed they’re going to be much more informed. So many people rely on social media, and we all know that social media it’s not always factual or its half-truths or innuendos and sometimes just downright false. That information gets around and people have a tendency to believe it. I think it would be great if we could, and I’m not talking about a big expense, film these meetings so they could immediately be uploaded on our website or on YouTube. We don’t have to spend a fortune having a lot of multimedia come in. We could certainly start off not is expensively, not as expensive as what Horry County’s doing. I talked Horry County and they spend a fortune. But then again, they have a huge geographical area where they’re trying to get the information out to. I just think information, real time information, is important. I think we need to be a little more progressive in how we disseminate information. I think it would go a long way for our residents to know what we’re talking about and how we were talking about it. So, I would like to start having our meetings taped, filmed and at a minimum having them uploaded to the website and/or YouTube or any anything else that staff thinks could be done to better disseminate information. I wanted to know how council felt about that. Mr. Stevens said three months ago, I didn’t know what live streaming was. I had a particular set of circumstances where I’m got with the group and we sponsored a debate for the city of Myrtle Beach. It was live streamed and went out to 5,400 people during the event and before was over, 7,000 or 8,000 people received it. A second live stream went to several thousand people. A website hosted the live stream and 16,000 people saw that website. Obviously, live streaming is pretty neat. I don’t have any problem with live streaming. As a matter fact, if you want real transparency, live stream everything we do. I like live streaming after my experience with it. We just have to figure out how to pay for it. Mr. Courtney asked if a cost was available. Ms. Samples said no. That’s why we’re discussing it tonight to see if we can get consensus and have staff bring back ideas on costs. Mr. Courtney asked if live streaming would include department reports and … Ms. Samples said absolutely, the whole meeting. Mr. Courtney said good. I have no problem with that. I’m all about transparency. Mr. Pellegrino said I agree 100-percent. Mr. Courtney asked a great questions, though. It’s and unbudgeted expensive. We need to know how much it will cost. Mr. Johnson had no comments. Mr. Ott said I’m a go. Mayor Childs said okay, we have a consensus of council to have staff look into this and report back to council about the expenditures and what is involved. Council CONCURRED.
C. Flood Damage Prevention, Deputy Administrator Harrah. Mr. Harrah presented the discussion paper, a copy of which is on file. There were no comments or questions. Council CONCURRED to bring an ordinance at the next meeting.

D. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed. There was no other discussion.

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

Ms. Beth Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: Before I do my thing, I just wanted to suggest you will have a Facebook page; go Facebook live. Maybe? I don't know. It's just a suggestion, because it's free. You were saying YouTube; it is just a suggestion. I wasn't going to do this publicly, however, I just have to do it, because I'm really, really upset about it. I'm going to do my best not to step over the bounds. But, I think it's important for the public to understand some things. When it comes to building in the flood area, in the flood zone, I think we all have to be extremely aware of what's happening around us, and I'm not saying that our staff isn't doing their job, but when things are brought to their attention they need to communicate better with each other, and with the public. I have, let me just read my first paragraph and then I'll tell you what's happening to me. I live at 1610 South Ocean Boulevard and they're building a lot homes around us, and I welcome that. I think it's wonderful. But there are rules and there are rules for reason. It's in the VE zone, which is flood, and very specific details. Right next to me adjacent to my house there was a demo permit, and the house was removed. So that permit is null and void now. The flood damage prevention ordinance and the stormwater ordinance requires a development permit be issued prior to any development beginning. Development is defined to include fill being added to a lot. I've requested a copy of the permits for 1514 South Ocean Boulevard. I was first told they had a permit, and I'm assuming they meant the demo permit. When I went down to town hall to say I want to see them, because I'm starting not to believe anything anymore. They said that there is no permit. Not to mention, not even a stormwater plan, which is something that you have to have in the VE zone. Section 14-10 of the flood ordinance states violations or failures to comply with this ordinance is a misdemeanor.

I would like the administrator or the [deputy] administrator to tell me if a summons has been issued and if not, why? Is this selective enforcement? It specifically states in these sections and these are the violations I found that a stop work order has to be issued and a summons, and then further down in the penalties and violations I can read the whole thing to you because you can read it yourselves that for each day after such violation continues it shall be considered a separate offense. That dirt's been there since December 1. This is the 12th, and I don't want to be that person in town. I'm gonna tell you what's happening to me, before I say that I want to y'all to remember Jammin' Leather. What the town did to them is what they did, and they fined the man every single day until he left town. So, we're gonna do it for one, please do it for all. You know how I feel about that equality thing: You know, don't let me cut down a tree, but tell the guy next door he can't. Not good. What's happening now is that, for whatever reason, contractors are calling me. Other builders are calling me, and come in my house. They call my cell phone. Residents are telling me to be careful. Be careful, Beth, you're gonna get up there and tick them all off, and you're gonna make the wrong person mad, and they're gonna come after you. Well, have at it. The pension fairy flies into my bank account every month. There's nothing really nothing you can take from me. I'm sorry if the people have big money to build big that's all well and good. But don't forget the people that live here 375 days a year. We matter, especially in a flood zone. They build 'em up and then the neighbors around flood. We have ordinances for a reason. I appreciate the fact that you're gonna grant me an audience tomorrow with you. I will bring all these violations with me and I'm hoping tomorrow to get some answers, because if I don't, I'm not that contractor that's gonna sit back and say I can't say anything because then they're gonna come after me. He's got a job to do to make money, and he doesn't need people coming after him. I volunteer seven days a week. You can't fire a volunteer. So, all I can say to anybody in town or anybody else, you want to come after me, come after me. But please, please, communication is key. Answer people. Let them know that they are important in your lives, because we are; we all should be. We all should be as important to you as you are to us. You make the rules. Now make sure they're
enforced. Please, because staff is doing stuff, but I don't know unless I hunt them down and talk to
them. That shouldn't be the way it is. Thank you.

Ms. Liz Bradley, Juniper Drive: I have a lot of things that I was gonna say, but there's no need
because all of you have addressed them along with the guests that are here. But I do want to
congratulate you on stepping forward to help to reduce the plastic waste in the ocean and to make a little
bit easier. I've got a book filled with over 400 signatures that we've collected here in Surfside Beach
during our Family Fun Day, during the Christmas parade; they are from people that live here; they are
from visitors that come here and spend their money. They all agree with you. They all agree with us.
They think it's a good idea. Many of them came from places that did not use plastic bags. They were
surprised that we did. So, we're all on the right track, and we've got lots of people backing you. So, good
job and keep up the good work.

Ms. Mary Maruca, 7th Avenue South: I've been coming to a lot of meetings. A lot of things have
been brought forth, but I have to say I am very impressed with the people who have come and asked
you to ban the plastic bags. I think almost every one of them that came to enlighten you and to ask you
for this is still here. That's a first. Usually people come here and speak in public comments about
something and out the door they go. So I think the compassion and their coming here and saying this to
you; I'm big on recycling, always have been. I have lived; I have gone; visited family that; these bags
have been banned for a long time or you go to the grocery store. You go to Wegman's in DC and
Maryland area, you're either buying a bag or you're bringing your own. This is not new. You will not be
liked for a while, but you will be liked afterwards and I really appreciate all of you coming out for this. So,
thank you.

Ms. Gottlieb McClaran, Pawleys Island: Good evening. It's very nice of you to hear me speak. I
have lived in Pawleys Island since 2006 when I came here with my husband to retire. On the very first
day that I was walking on the beach, I find a plastic bag. That was the beginning and the end of my
retirement. I came as a brunette and I am now white. When I found this plastic bag on the beach,
something resonated with me and the chill went down my spine, because I knew that balloons choke
birds and marine life. I just felt that the plastic bags and other plastic products would be doing exactly
the same thing to the birds and the marine life that balloons did. So I Googled plastic in the ocean and I
discovered Capt. Charles Moore, who is the sea captain who discovered the Great Pacific garbage patch
in 1997. He was so intrigued by what he found out there in the North Pacific Ocean that he gathered
scientists together and he went back to this particular area in the North Pacific Ocean to measure the
amount of plastic compared to plankton. In 1999, he finds six times more plastic than plankton by
weight. He went back again in 2009, and he finds 36 times more plastic to plankton by weight. In 2015
he made his last trip to the garbage patch. The measurement at that time was 63 times more plastic to
plankton. Every single organism in the ocean has plastic in it. The plastic once it is produced, is on this
planet forever. At this point in time, from 1972 until 2015, we manufactured 650 million tons of plastic,
and unless it's been incinerated that plastic is still on our planet somewhere. It distresses me to the point
where I can't sleep at night thinking about the animals that are ingesting this plastic and there is so much
it is a crisis. There is so much plastic in the ocean that in the Mariana trench which is 7 miles below sea
level every single organism out of 100 samples had plastic in it. So, I applaud you. I think is the most
wonderful thing I have heard all year that you proposed to go ahead with this. I thank Ms. Samples for
bringing this issue up. I think Mr. Ott for supporting it, and the Mayor for supporting it. With regards to
HD5329 that issued for the plastic industry to ban plastic bag. Bans has been created in practically every
state in the country. Some states have given into it. Some states have not. California was one that did.
When California proposed statewide plastic bag ban, the industry did everything in its power to reverse
that ban and did not succeed. The plastic industry said that California would fall apart if they banned
plastic bags California still standing. It's maybe a little bit burnt, but it's still standing. So I thank you with
all my heart for listening to us and I congratulate you for taking this issue on. I do think that as leaders
of the North Coast you will be very proud of what you're doing. I thank you so much.
Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I think it’s a great idea about the live streaming of council meetings. Before I lived here, I was a second home owner. I used to read every single minute of every single meeting, and then when I got into town, I like to come to meetings. But, sometimes, I’m working. So, sometimes I listen to the meeting. Sometimes, I read about them. But I think it’s a great idea to have it. Thank you to Ms. Samples for bringing that up. Thank you, also, don’t fall off your chair, I’m going to thank you twice tonight, Ms. Samples, for the plastic waste. I think it’s a great idea. It’s time has come. We’re one of the biggest recyclers in the area, and plastic needs to go. Now, I’m just a little disappointed that none of you thought of this. We are probably the biggest, not the biggest, but we are a perpetrator of plastic bags in this town. Do you know what is? It’s dog waste bags. We’ve got over 30 beach accesses. We’re talking about the beach; the ocean. We’ve got these canisters with plastic bags. Does that make sense, folks? I wish we could go back about 15 minutes and one of you could make a consensus next week we’re done with plastic. This is been brought up two years ago; biodegradable bags for dog waste. This is where we should be going. So don’t ask the stores and everyone to do their part doing plastic bags and meanwhile you’re letting people use plastic bags on the beach. You’re promoting it. It doesn’t make sense. Also, I want to thank you for slowing down is E district. This was discussed by the parking commission committee, and also planning commission a year and half ago. It was approved. Over 50-percent of the building is knocked down because of a storm, it has to be raised up and underneath there you put the same amount of parking spaces that were there originally. Make sense. The planning commission agreed. The building director at the time: that was her idea. She actually made up drawings to show that this could be done. Why didn’t it go anywhere? Why did it stop? I’m just curious. Anyone figure that out? Somebody didn't like it. Somebody maybe has property on Ocean Boulevard; they didn't like that idea. Maybe you can't get as much money for a property, if that had to be done, or it would be harder to build. I’d be interested; I looked. I know who owns all those properties. There’s a big guy that owns two of ‘em. Who are we working for? Are you guys working for us? Or are you working for special people? I really, really thank you for slowing it down a little bit. Parking is at a premium. Believe me, I live parking. If you want to bring a bigger pier in, you’re gonna put more restaurants up there, and then you’re gonna make an entertainment district, and you’re gonna eliminate that parking, you just said you’re gonna try to stop it. But where are these people gonna park? I don't want a three-story parking garage with a McDonald's and a Taco Bell. That's what's gonna happen, because you're gonna have to do it. You putting all the stores in there; all restaurants in there and then you're gonna say, the businesses, they can't work. We gotta put a parking garage in there. This is a nice quiet little town. This is a great place to live. I don't want to live in Myrtle Beach. I don't want to live on the Marshwalk. I don't want to live in Garden City on Atlantic Avenue where every store is next to each other. Arcades, drugs, kids getting in trouble. Drugs, cars broken into, drugs. You get where I’m coming from? The more you bring in, the more transients you bring in, even though those people are good, what comes is like when you see the shark going around and they’ve got the fish underneath, and they're eating off the shark. Well, think of the tourists coming in to eat. They’re the shark and you have the other people to eating off them. They’re gonna break into people’s cars. They’re gonna come here and break into people’s homes. So, slow it down a little bit. Great idea. I like the entertainment district, don't get me wrong. But you have to plan this out. This shouldn't be like 'let's just do it!’ Because, obviously, most of you didn’t know anything about the parking conditions (time ended) before I said it tonight. A couple of you I said it to you yesterday. Thank you.

Ms. Corrine Hilliard, Burgess: Since, you’ve had, first off, I want to thank you all for coming to a consensus about the plastic waste reduction ordinance. I know the Chirping Birds have done a lot of work to back that up, and try to do the best to inform the Council, as well as the residents in doing the petition signing. There’s been a lot; we have done within the last year a lot of events within the community to try to provide education to the residents. Mr. Johnson, in reference to small businesses, I understand the cost absolutely 100-percent. Also, realizing that with this plastic bag ban there is no requirement for businesses to provide bags at all. That’s entirely up to the business to make that decision on whether or not they want to charge a fee for them or provide anything, if they want to repurpose bags like Costco does with the boxes at checked out that’s their choice to run their business the way they want to do it in reference to this ordinance. The other thing is that there are a lot of community organizations such as
Surfrider that does a lot of work with the local surf shops to provide them with bags. If there's somebody in the area that has an issue with that we want to support them. We do want to support business. We like living here. We like the businesses that are here and want them to continue. So there is a social aspect to it that we do want to engage and promote this moving forward. Again, I appreciate your time and I’m looking forward to seeing this move forward.

Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive. I think that the people talking about the parking in the E district is missing the whole point. The whole point of this is to make walking area so people can walk. I know when I go on vacation, I like to park my car and if at all possible, I don't want to get back in it until the day I leave. I walk to places and that's the whole point. We're such a small town with the rental district down there that I’m sure a lot of people, if we had an area down there that you could walk around in, would be walking rather than driving. I think that a lot of people are missing the whole point in the entertainment district. It’s that we’re trying to create a walking area that people can walk around and don't have to get in their cars and not have to have a place to park. Just a point there that I wanted to make. Thank you.

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Mr. Ott: I wanted to thank everybody for being here and telling us what they think, and what they say, and I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, because we’re not gonna be back until after that. I think the council worked very well together tonight, and if there is a problem within our construction as Mrs. Kohlmann explained, if I could be privileged, I’d like, if there’s going to be a discussion, I’d like to be invited to sit back and just listen, if I could. That would be totally up to Mrs. Kohlmann, but I would like to understand and see what's going on if there's a problem. Besides that thank you very much for a great year. See you next year.

Mr. Courtney: I would like to thank all of you for coming out. I do support cleaning up the beaches. Before I got old, well older, not older, old enough, but I used to surf. I used to go to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic. We used to jump on a boat to get back over to the US. If you ever been in the Dominican Republic, you'll see and this is back 20 years ago, in the ports before you leave, the channel was all cluttered up with Styrofoam and plastic bottles. It's all over the place; a disaster as we have down here at this beach. It's a long battle we have. In New York there is mandatory recycling. We don't have mandatory recycling here. Most of all of our residents recycle. My family and my kids do it. I believe everybody on this council does it. Pro for recycling. I think the residents really push this and I think it's a great thing. I'd like to see the county push it, as well. I think that's where the big impact is. [Ms. Hilliard] and I spent some time together. She really opened my eyes. It was a good lesson learned. Going at something else, ordinances. We have ordinances. Some are being enforced; some aren't. Some aren't even being enacted, as we saw in the past and this Council we had parking ordinances put into place that were never enacted, implemented. Going back to flooding on Ms. Kohlmann's complaint, I know. I feel your pain. It happened by me between 15th and 14th Poplar. Builders created a fishbowl; created flooding, and this does not just impact the homeowners. It impacts the residents, because why? 14th Avenue was under water, and the roadway was under water. It sat like that. When that happens the road buckles. So the impact is huge. So the topo, the ordinance that was passed by this council is to make sure that would never happen again. Committees are very important. I had my doubts at times, but there are committees and everyone in this community has these intelligent people out here. A lot of you have important stuff that you can add as you did tonight with this entertainment district. The E district, I don't have a problem with light entertainment district. But you know the parking does concern me. Do I want to see these people parking on your driveways? Where I come from, Long Beach, New York, they'll park right in the driveway, walk away and take the keys. It's a nightmare, and so parking is going to be a problem. I hope that the administrator will get together with some of these committees and try to work out this problem. I don't want to see a parking garage go up. Don't want to see a Starbucks there. I don't want to see nothing against North Myrtle Beach. I love it, but I don't want see McDonald's there, as well. After all, you know I have to say something. Merry Christmas and God bless you.
Mr. Johnson: Thank you all for coming out. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Just let me set the record straight, I am not against banning plastic bags. I would just like to get some more input from the businesses. That’s all I ask. And in another note, I just want to announce that Ms. Miriam Haire, the executive director of the Municipal Association is retiring at the end of the year, and today, this morning we met, the board of directors met, and we have hired Mr. Wayne George as her placement. And that’s a good thing for the Town of Surfside Beach, because he is a native Mullins, and so he’s got our strength at hear. So he’s a good guy. I’ve known him professionally for several years. J just want to let you know that. Other than that that’s all I have. Thank you again.

Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you very much for coming. We had plenty of discussion during this meeting, so I don’t have much more say. I do wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy the time with your family. Try to slow down from our hectic lives, and enjoy it. Just be thankful for all God gave us. He gave us this great town. He gave us our families. He gave us the situations we’re in today. So take time to think about that and thank God for everything we have. Have a great night.

Ms. Samples: First, I’d like to thank council for being so proactive tonight on our discussion items. I appreciate your encouragement and the support for the effort. I also want to thank the advocates out there who are much more knowledgeable than I am about plastic bags and their harm on our environment. Mr. Campbell from Dead Dog, thank you for showing up and giving us your business perspective. Hopefully that resonated with Mr. Johnson. I would also like to say congratulations to Mr. Jon Doherty and Mr. Ronald Mask. Thank you for your willingness to serve. Mr. Mask on the stormwater committee, and Mr. Doherty, I don’t know if he’s here, but on the zoning board of appeals. Participation from our residents is key to the success of this town. We really appreciate you so much. Our next meeting of Town Council is January 9th, but more importantly, on January 8th, filing for town elections begins. There are three Town Council seats up. Anyone who lives in the Town of Surfside Beach is encouraged to pay your $25 and file. Is it still $25? It’s $25 and you have to be 18 and a registered voter. But we encourage you. If you’d like to participate in what’s happening up here, we encourage you to remember January 8th. Filing will be open all week until Friday. If you need a nighttime appointment when Ms. Herrmann is not in the office, she’ll meet with you. She’s that good. I want everyone to have a happy and safe holiday, and I look forward to seeing everybody in the New Year. Thank you.

Mr. Stevens: I’m glad we took the bold step and did something on plastic bags. As a fisherman and hunter, [Mr.] Fred Nash said this best, when we were out there fishing in the inlet one time and a plastic bag comes floating by, I reached down and grabbed it, he said ‘somebody is dumb as a box of rocks to throw it in the water.’ But, anyway, we took a bold move. I’d like to know what the alternatives are though. I don’t know really what the alternatives [are] and I ask the fellow from Black Mingo Outfitters to please explain the alternatives, because businesses, we can use; (**) The town will have to go to paper bag for leaves, so we’re already on that way, and [Mr.] Harry Kohlmann to make good point we need to get them off the beach and out of the dog park. Reckon the dog park people would have to get a super duper pooper scooper. Ms. Maruca mentioned about music till midnight. I agree with you hundred percent. We don’t have to have music till midnight outdoors. Put it inside after ten o’clock. No use to keep everybody up. People down on vacation maybe want to relax not party the whole time they’re here. As far as the four piles of dirt on the lot down on 15th Avenue, I watched the town pile a tractor trailer load of mulch; all kinds of stuff for four years in a residential lot. The town of Surfside. It broke their own laws. They finally quit after somebody went after ‘em. Thank you for quitting that. Other things, the E district. That’s a great idea. We’ve got a lot of things that we can do there, but we need to make sure we do it right. And that’s the most important thing. We only have a limited amount of parking and as [Ms.] Carrie Johnson said, she wants to create a walking district, but I’ll remind you if you go to Marsh Walk, you’ve got to drive there, and there is more parking down there than you can shake a stick at. But you do get to walk on the Marsh Walk, and hopefully, you don’t see any plastic bags. In closing, I wish all of y’all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope Santa brings you everything that you’ve got on your wish list, and that your families and all are happy and everything. God bless you.
Mayor Childs: I just have a couple of things to say. I do totally agree with Ms. Samples. I think we ought to ban plastic of every kind and Styrofoam, because this world we’re get buried in our own trash. If we don’t really start having biodegradable material; us in this room here probably will not see it, but your kids and grandkids they’re the ones that are going to suffer. They’re going to find out; wonder what we did, why we didn’t do something. So I’m 100-percent behind that. In the next subject area, Mr. Kohlmann and I worked closely on parking for some time. I was the liaison to the parking committee at one time. And I agree with Mrs. Johnson. I don’t think it’s so much were trying to get the people from Myrtle Beach to come here, we’re are trying to get the people that are here to stay here in this entertainment district. We’re not so much advertising come on out; I do agree parking is an issue. Parking is an issue everywhere. I came from Washington, DC. No bigger problem than in Washington, DC. But we’re trying to encourage the renters we have, and we have a lot of renters to walk. They’re looking for a destination so they don’t have to go to Myrtle Beach. They’d like to stay here. So I’m 100-percent behind this E district. I think it’s great. In particular, if we can work out where you can’t build on existing parking, I think that’s going to be a monumental help to this community with the tax base. I mean we all enjoy the low tax rate here. We just have to do as much as we can to keep ahead of it and bringing businesses in here to bring our taxes up so we don’t have to raise ‘em and upset everybody. Let’s try to get those tax dollars in here and try to encourage people that are here to walk to this entertainment district. I think it would be a great thing, and Mr. Harrah will work out some issues on the parking that I think will be satisfactory to everybody, and I do encourage that. And lastly, I would wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for attending tonight.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by:

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: January 9, 2018

Surfside Beach Town Council

VOTE:  Yes  No

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

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