



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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: Acting Administrator Hofmann and Town Clerk Herrmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Reverend Jeff Wood from Oasis of Hope Church gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

Mayor Childs recognized the 2018 General Election Candidates: Ms. Mary Nell True, Ms. Debbie Scoles, Mr. Bruce Dietrich, Ms. Carol Cook, Mr. Cabell Young, Mr. Tim Courtney, and Mr. David Pellegrino each introduced themselves.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Workshop December 11, 2017 and Regular Meeting January 23, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the December 11, 2017 workshop minutes and the January 23, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: I would like to address the agenda issue or item the resolution of formality, rather to formally ratify the vote taken on January 23 in connection with the termination the town administrator and the deputy town administrator. As a Town Council, you have no option other than to pass this. By far more important is why we are here. Each taxpayer resident of this town needs to know the reason for this resolution is an attempt to undo the illegal agenda change and resulting illegal motion at the January 23rd meeting when the Town Council misled all of us by identifying what the motion entailed and by thus doing denied us the opportunity for public comment, because we had no idea what the agenda was. Each of us needs to know that this council did not have an executive meeting (***) for the motion; refused to get legal action, and did not perform any kind of due diligence to minimize the town's legal and financial outlay liabilities, as well as not developing a plan on how the town was going to operate. This is actually the third meeting they're holding to make things right. The agenda item on the 23rd motion and/or directions to town administrator for executive session was placed on the agenda without the required 24 hour notice. It did not meet the regular required super vote to qualify for the emergency addition to the agenda. It was contrary to the legal advice that they had received; was misleading in that it was not that they did not have any prior actual executive meeting, misled the citizens of this town with clouded wording that did not identify the actual motions to be included. It overstepped its scope by including a motion to discharge the deputy town administrator and the rehire of a planning director. If I'm incorrect on any of these, I'd really like to have any corrections. We need to be aware that this abuse of power this council has demonstrated by the four members who voted for this council and the vote in the change in January 23rd. What is done is done. But we need to ensure this kind of abuse of power, failure to perform due diligence, and the knee jerk grandstanding does not continue. The four members who voted for this motion to terminate the town's entire administrative team did not exhibit sound professional judgment nor perform any due diligence. Something we've actually voted, elected you to do. Surfside deserves more from each of you, and depends on it. To the taxpayers and residents of this Surfside Beach, if you don't think this matters, wait until the Town Council meets its obligation of transparency and reports what the cost estimate will be for this illegal, unprofessional, (*time ended*) and now this attempt to lead our community. Thank you.

Ms. Meg Perrino, Cedar Drive North: I just wanted to speak to 7.C., resolution by Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful to declare the seats vacant and limit the membership to nine members. Throughout this year we've kind of had some changes. Some people kind of stepped down. We've had some new people. We've had some people come

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57 and go for our committee. [The year] 2018 is lining up to be a huge year for us. We've added, like, I don't know, six
58 or seven more beach sweeps. We have a few extra endeavors that we're gonna undertake, which we think are really
59 exciting, but unfortunately it's been hard for us to form a quorum, and this has been keeping us from allowing to
60 have votes and keep proper minutes, because of attendance, and this is preventing us from accomplishing the things
61 that we want to accomplish to make sure that we can continue to beautify the town. So, I just would like you guys to
62 consider that it is really important to us and our committee that we do limit our membership to nine members. We
63 would just appreciate that. Thank you.

64
65 Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North: I'm asking about the reference a, 7A, council messed up by not
66 following the rules in amending the agenda. You are such a hurry terminate the administrator and deputy
67 administrator you failed to do your due diligence. Here we are fixing that error. Had the four of you taken the time
68 to get advice and direction from the labor attorney as opposed to ignoring her, you might have realized your actions
69 were in error. Just because the four of you want to do something does not mean it's right or legal. Your actions were
70 all about you, and not about the best of town. Thank you.

71
72 **6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report.** Acting Administrator Hofmann presented the
73 written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Chief Hofmann said we participated in a conference call with
74 FEMA today. FEMA provided informal and nonbinding verbal approval to the Town of Surfside Beach, which will
75 allow pier reconstruction and hazard mitigation through the 428 Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Program.
76 FEMA will review and validate the town's request for eligibility and finalize a cost estimate for the project, then the
77 town must agree with the final project worksheet scope and costs to confirm authorization to participate in the 428
78 program. The town will have to provide direction of record as to the desired pier design. A daily activities and
79 working file is being kept that may be of interest to the interim administrator, which will be turned over to that
80 person once they are appointed. Lastly, I believe you were delivered some information tonight as requested by
81 council last night. I met with Mr. James Duckett to initiate negotiations regarding the interim administrator position
82 as directed at the special meeting last night. A draft copy of the memorandum of understanding was presented to you
83 tonight. If you wish to move forward with council consensus on that agreement, Mr. Duckett is prepared to execute
84 it this evening. **COUNCIL CONCURRED.**

85
86 Mr. Stevens thanked Chief Hofmann for his excellent communication while serving as acting administrator
87 saying that he was better informed than he has been in years. He hoped that his communication style would be an
88 example for future administrators. Ms. Samples asked how soon Mr. Duckett would begin. Chief Hofmann said he is
89 prepared to be here tomorrow morning. I will need to meet with Mr. Duckett this evening to obtain his signature for
90 it to be a binding contract. Ms. Samples was concerned that the FEMA commitment was verbal, and asked when
91 written approval would be received. Chief Hofmann said according the Mr. Omara from Hagerty Consulting, it
92 should be soon. I will inform the interim administrator of the importance of moving quickly on the pier. Mayor
93 Childs said FEMA officials along with the state officials has put this as a top priority. I hope we have an answer in a
94 very short time. Mr. Ott suggested that councilmembers write a letter of appreciation and commendation to Chief
95 Hofmann for his service as acting administrator. He's done a terrific job. We really appreciate him taking on the
96 additional responsibility. Chief Hofmann said thank you. It's truly been an honor. I really appreciate council putting
97 their trust in me to handle this for this short time. It's been a very eye-opening experience for me in a really good
98 way to see a different perspective on operation of the town. This was an incredible opportunity to see what a great
99 staff the town has; strong department directors, and really good employees. Thank you. Mayor Childs said if you
100 really like it, maybe we could stretch it a few more days. (*Laughter.*) Mr. Courtney said some of the
101 councilmembers or at least the infrastructure committee member be included on the FEMA conference calls. Mr.
102 Johnson believed councilmembers should stand back and let the directors handle this and report to council. I
103 understand Mr. Courtney's concern. Mayor Childs said there will be another workshop, to which the public is
104 invited and welcomed to comment, on the pier before anything is finalized. FEMA seems to know that they need to
105 give us a resolution to our problem. I am very optimistic that this will come about very soon. Mr. Courtney said he
106 and Chief Hofmann spoke about the number of police officers that we are losing, and asked if there was a report on
107 that. Chief Hofmann said I am prepared to make a proposal to council at the vision meeting next week.

108
109 **7. BUSINESS.**

110
111 **A. Resolution (Motion) to formally ratify the vote taken on January 23, 2018 in connection with the**
112 **termination of the Town Administrator and the Deputy Town Administrator, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott. Mr.**

113 Ott moved to ratify the vote made on January 23rd, 2018 to relieve the town administrator of her duties and
114 responsibilities effective immediately, and the town administrator receiving her pay to the end of the contract and
115 also to ratify the vote taken on January 23rd, 2018 to relieve the deputy town administrator of all duties and
116 responsibilities effective immediately. Mr. Stevens second. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney,
117 Johnson, and Stevens voted in favor. Mayor Childs and Councilmembers Pellegrino and Samples voted against.
118 **MOTION CARRIED.**

119
120 **B. Accommodations Tax recommendations for 2017-2018 Unallocated Funds, Chief Hoffmann.** Mr.
121 Stevens moved to adopt the recommendations from the accommodations tax committee for 2017-2018 unallocated
122 funds. Mr. Courtney second. After discussion about the equipment and the legality of a pier disaster fund, the
123 motion was withdrawn. Mr. Courtney moved to defer the recommendation to the February 22nd vision meeting. Mr.
124 Johnson second. Mr. Ott asked that staff provide more information and photos of the six-wheel beach vehicle. All
125 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

126
127 **C. Resolution by Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful to Declare Seats Vacant and Limit Membership to**
128 **Nine Members, Chief Hofmann.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the resolution presented by the Keep Surfside Beach
129 Beautiful Committee. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

130
131 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**

132
133 **A. Live Stream Town Council Meetings, Councilmember Samples.** Mr. Samples said this was
134 discussed before and explained that this discussion was not only about live streaming, but also about videotaping our
135 meetings. We have an audio recordings of the meetings that are posted on the town website until minutes are
136 approved [and archived permanently.] Minutes are done the meetings. Most towns and cities videotape their
137 meetings. It certainly is an opportunity for those people who cannot make our meetings who are second homeowners
138 or who don't live here full-time an opportunity to see their town at work; town business at work. I wanted to see how
139 council feels about moving forward with this since we are going to be having our vision meeting and the budget is
140 being prepared. I think it would be prudent for us to discuss the viability of doing this and whether this council
141 would be willing to fund the opportunity to have our meetings videotaped and to also reach out to Spectrum and
142 HTC who have public service channels to carry our meetings on those channels. So this discussion is to see if
143 council is still as enthusiastic about it as they were the last time we had that discussion so we can ask our new
144 interim administrator to put the time and effort into doing the proper research to determine what the cost would be.
145 Mr. Ott agreed. I always wanted that. You did the research on this and it's very well done. I'd like to go over and see
146 Horry County's system as they seem to be the only group that is actually doing live stream. We need to really find
147 out how much it is going to cost. There will have to be somebody that's going to fix it, and so we have to put out all
148 the dollars and cents. Mr. Ott asked Ms. Samples if she had seen Horry County's system. Ms. Samples said, yes, I
149 have, and thank you for your comments. First, let me clarify that I did not do the research on this. Our town clerk did
150 the research. We certainly appreciate her efforts. There still is more information we need to receive and I think that
151 it would be incumbent upon our new administrator to get that information for us. There is a possibility, I'm told, we
152 can we could potentially tie-in with what Horry County is doing as it relates to their equipment and access to
153 Spectrum and HTC. Obviously, we need somebody to do the videotaping and we need somebody to upload it.
154 There's a lot of information that still needs to be obtained. I would like for our interim town administrator to put
155 forward the effort to get that information so we can decide whether we want to put money into it, and how important
156 is it to us. Mr. Ott asked if information could be brought to the vision workshop. Ms. Samples said that would be
157 perfect. Mr. Courtney I have no problem with this. Horry County's cost is \$13,506 a year. There were many costs
158 not added. We need to have better numbers before we decide. The biggest concern I have is the storage on the cloud,
159 and that cost. Mr. Johnson said my biggest concern is that several cable companies serve this area, so we'll have to
160 contract or notify all the cable companies in the service area to see what the options are. Ms. Samples said that was
161 an excellent point. We do have franchise agreements with those companies now, so that should certainly not be a
162 problem with implementing an additional source from them. But again, if we can have it is a discussion item at
163 visioning, maybe our interim administrator can bring forward information for us so we have more data to discuss at
164 visioning, if you all agree. **Council CONCURRED.**

165
166 **B. Ordinance #17-0839 Landscape & Trees, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott.** Mr. Ott said this tree ordinance
167 just always needs to be looked at. All handymen require is a license, to be insured, and for the contractor to be
168 bonded to protect the people. In my opinion, requiring bonds create an unfair playing field for the small contractors

169 who cannot compete easily with large contractors. Many people in town have told me about scammed by different
170 contractors, especially after a storm, and that's why the bond was required. The police department said there were 11
171 cases reported in the last two years. But, we don't know how many people lost their lost money. I'd like to see if I
172 can get some council thoughts on this to help the small contractors. We would help our residents and taxpayers, but
173 we need to ensure it is the right thing before we drop the bond requirement. Mr. Stevens said this is very important
174 to protect our citizens. If there is an accident, who is liable? The homeowner or the homeowner's insurance
175 company would be responsible, if the contractor doesn't have insurance. Anytime you deal with a contractor you
176 need to have a certificate of insurance statement that you are covered as an additional insured on the contractor's
177 policy to protect yourself from claims resulting from an accident. Mayor Childs said I went to the building
178 department about this. Staff called an insurance company, and found out that a \$5000 bond that's good for one year
179 and covers up to five employees is only \$100. So these bonds are not really that outrageous. The first person the
180 contractor did a job for would probably absorb that \$100, and then the bond is still good for one year. I agree with
181 Mr. Stevens. We had an incident on 13th Avenue North after last storm when a contractor came in cut a tree down.
182 He walked away and left the homeowner with a huge tree in the front yard. We all know people come in,
183 particularly after a storm, and try to get work, often without a license. I think a reasonable bond is a good thing. Ms.
184 Samples agreed, and said I don't have any problem requiring any contractor to have a bond. My concern is that
185 when we make changes to our ordinances like we did with the tree ordinance and we required a bond for a tree
186 cutter that we had never required before, that there was no grace period allowed for the tree companies to purchase
187 the bond so they could perform scheduled work. I think we need to have a bond, but when we make changes to
188 ordinances that we put into place some sort of process to notify those to whom it applies or allow a grace period to
189 provide the bond if the job is imminent.

190
191 **C. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.**
192

193 Mr. Stevens said I'm going to talk about something that no politician wants to talk about: term limits. This
194 is something we should look at as a town. Why have a person in there for 30 years? Term limits are being hollered at
195 by people all across this nation. There are people that get in there and they get real cushy in the job and they spend
196 the money and spend the money and spend money. I don't know if this Town Council would like to talk about term
197 limits, but I would like to bring it up during visioning and see what council thinks about it. It is a good thought.
198 There are a lot of able-bodied people in this town who could probably do a good job like anybody up here. I
199 welcome them to come up in serve for us. I don't want to do this for the rest of my life. Would Town Council be
200 interested in discussing term limits at the vision workshop? Mayor Childs said I bet there's a lot of people that
201 would like to see one term. (*Laughter.*) Ms. Samples said I think it's a great idea. We can discuss term limits, forms
202 of government, pay, and many other things. I don't know if it's appropriate to doing during the vision workshop, but
203 perhaps in its own workshop after the election is completed. **Council CONCURRED.**
204

205 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)
206

207 Ms. Anna Johnson, Cedar Drive North: This is to Mayor Childs, the Council, and citizens. I don't like
208 some of the things that I've heard and seen that's happened at Surfside Beach lately. The citizens of Surfside Beach
209 elected Mayor Childs and as our mayor and this position of his, and as a result of this he and that office are due our
210 respect in every way. Again, there is a division with our council. This town is composed of people from all different
211 places and there is no way that you're going to see eye to eye on all the different issues, and it is a good thing that
212 you don't. However, before voting time do you ask yourself this question, do I truly believe my vote is in the best
213 interest for Surfside Beach and its citizens? My husband, Dick Johnson, loved this town and I do, too. And we
214 should try to make it the best place it can be. Citizens, do you pray for your leaders? We need God's guidance, if it's
215 going to come out right. At these meetings, please, don't try to embarrass employees. If you have something against
216 someone, go to them. Talk it out and try to resolve it. This will cut down on lawsuits. In the future, my wish is that if
217 I meet a stranger and they asked me where I live, I can say with pride, Surfside Beach, one of the best small towns in
218 these United States. Thank you.
219

220 Ms. Gail King, Hollywood Drive North: It looks like council's gotta move forward. They've got a lot on
221 their agenda: the pier; budget; find a new administrator. But, with all these needs, I don't think we need to focus on
222 the continual attacks in all forms of the media, especially social media. I was just up here in September talking about
223 this. I completely understand why council did not like being called 'gang,' but it is inexcusable as well for members
224 of our council to post defamatory, long-winded comments, even in capital letters on Facebook. We should all be

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225 better than that. Let me remind you that people in glass houses should not throw stones. The ongoing disputes create
226 an environment where no viable businesses want to open in our town anymore. Surfside Beach has become the
227 laughing stock of the Grand Strand, and I have plenty of friends in other areas of the Grand Strand that just says
228 what's happening down there? The defamatory remarks that have been made in flyers, social media, is disrespectful
229 to other councilmen and the citizens of Surfside Beach. May I remind all of the councilmen that we have an election
230 coming up and it is the citizens of this community that may replace you in April, and in the election in two years? I
231 think the actions of this current council have awakened the silent majority of voters in Surfside Beach. The values of
232 the candidates that we choose to support will hopefully allow this town to move forward in a more positive manner
233 than what it has been going.
234

235 Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: They say the biggest fear that most people have is public speaking, and
236 I apologize for any quivering in my voice, or any stuttering that I do, but it's a new venture for me to be up here. I
237 have already shared my concerns of the legal action of the agenda change and the subsequent illegal vote that
238 happened on January 23rd. I tried to voice my objection and was told I was out of order. If I had had the opportunity
239 to talk, I would have asked how long is the current contract, and the town's financial liability and obligation in
240 terminating these two employees at that time. Now that I know that you've chosen to honor the contract instead of a
241 severance package, a couple more questions come up. Do the medical benefits continue? Are we still paying for the
242 holidays and vacation time continue and accrue, and what other benefits will continue to be funded by the town for
243 the next six months? I would've also asked if due diligence was performed by the council to consider and ensure
244 they were proceeding properly in such a manner that will reduce the town's financial liability for potential lawsuits,
245 increased unemployment insurance, and any applicable state, federal, and financial obligations. I would've also
246 asked how the town would be run during the interim. Who would make the day-to-day decisions? Coordinate the
247 various departments, and do the daily business? Something as simple as signing paychecks. As the following, as the
248 meeting proceeded, it was obvious no thought was given to these issues and was obvious the council did not perform
249 or do their due diligence in this motion. What will it cost for a state administrator? Now, I guess we're not gonna
250 have that. We're gonna have a temporary, we're gonna have two people, a temporary administrator and an interim
251 administrator. So what will the cost to the taxpayers be for this decision? I am certain the chief of police deserves
252 compensation for the additional responsibilities he's taken. While we continue to pay and how much is the interim
253 financial person or administrator gonna cost? We will continue to pay these prices as we continue to pay the people
254 that are, that have been fired. So we're doing triple what we normally would spend. I also wonder the effect of
255 having a part-time police officer will have on his department and the services they provide. He's doing an excellent
256 job and sooner or later it's going to be overburden for him. Also, what will the consequences be in our attempt to
257 hire adequate quality professional town administrator. My guess is that no reasonable professional administrator
258 would even consider a position working with this Town Council, no matter how much taxpayers' money you choose
259 to throw at them. It seems to me you are getting the reputation and notoriety, notoriety the same as Atlantic Beach
260 Town Council. I would've also asked who would facilitate the discharge. I found it very alarming that both the
261 people discharge employees what that at this room with notebooks, paperwork, probably their keys to the files, desk
262 and office computer access with no regard to this council. What is the town's liability in terminating, in the
263 termination of the deputy administrator? Your motion did not include, when you terminated him, did not include
264 continuing of a contract or not, so are we done with him or is there an ongoing expense there? On a related matter, at
265 the same meeting you hired a planning board director. My question is if this procedure was followed, is there a
266 procedure to hire town employees? Is there a requirement to advertise for such openings? Are there EEO (Equal
267 Employment Opportunity), federal and state regulations that apply? Or, has this Town Council again, due to lack of
268 due diligence, opened the town to further legal liability or federal and state scrutiny? Now, having said all this, the
269 only real important question that remains involves your obligation of transparency. What is the cost to the taxpayers
270 of Surfside Beach for your actions on January 23rd? At the end of the day four of you councilmen chose to
271 demonstrate your male ego instance and need to show, showboat instead of sounding, using sound professional
272 judgment, the kind of sound professional judgment and due diligence we've actually elected you to perform. It is my
273 opinion that with the exception of two or three Town Councilmembers, I maintain that the rest of you good old boys,
274 the 'gang of four', need to do their homework prior to taking action, and avoid knee-jerk grandstanding decisions.
275 Surfside Beach deserves more from each of you. *(Time ended.)* Again, I am just an old man enjoying my retirement
276 in Surfside with no hidden agenda. But, I believe... Mayor Childs: Sir, time is up. Mr. Reed: I believe in holding
277 elected officials transparent and accountable. Thank you.
278

279 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: Mayor, Council, citizens, and town employees. I mean, hey, wow.
280 I've got to go back to what I said a couple of weeks ago. Democracy at work. Regardless of whether you agreed

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281 with what happened or not, I saw it working. I saw the Town Council doing what they needed to do. There was a
282 vote taken. May not have been a really great reaction to it, or for some people it was great. We knew we were in for
283 some rough roads ahead, you know, which is, it's, it's part of governing a town. Small as this town is, big are the
284 problems we've got. I think you all came together to the point democracy worked and thank you for that.
285

286 Mr. Nick Delaplane, 13th Avenue North: You've heard from me before and you just heard two very good
287 little talks from Gail King and this gentleman; the other gentleman, I didn't get his name. So we're covering pretty
288 much the same thing, but I thought that it's important that I also just stand up here to support exactly what they said,
289 by particularly Gail King, in the upcoming elections and the things we're gonna remember and we're gonna wake
290 the natural, the silent majority. One more tiny little thing, I'll cut this short. It's my understanding that the council
291 terminated the town administrator and assistant administrator without properly documenting their poor, in their
292 mind, performance. There are clear procedures that govern how a person is terminated, which include written
293 critiques of poor performance and the employee given an opportunity to correct this performance. In other words, a
294 paper trail. This process is nationally accepted and has been established to avoid this exact situation that the certain
295 councilmembers proceeded to clear these people out so they could instate a personal friend back in. So what has
296 happened is you have placed already been, so I'll cut it short, has placed this town in great financial risk. I just want
297 to support what has already been said, and we're going to watch this during this coming election very carefully.
298 Thank you.
299

300 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
301

302 Mr. Ott: Thank you for all your comments. That's what we have. We have a democracy. We're allowed to
303 speak. I want everybody to say what they feel. I want everybody to give us your opinion on what happens, because
304 we all live in the same town, and that is a good thing. This is a beautiful town. Thank you for coming out, again, and
305 thank you for being involved in your local government.
306

307 Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. Have a great week and we'll see you in two
308 weeks. Thank you.
309

310 Mr. Johnson: I have no comments. Obviously, my voice is going very quickly. Thank you all for coming
311 out. God bless you. See you next time.
312

313 Mr. Pellegrino: Thank you for coming. As far as the comments on the social media, I have no presence on
314 social media. Although, people tell me that I'm a major target. So that's my only presence. Nothing I put on, so I
315 can't get accused of that. Thank you, too, it's nice to hear from the silent majority. In America often we hear from
316 the vocal minority, so thank you for coming to the last few meetings. I appreciate the comments. I appreciate
317 comments from everyone, but it's nice to hear. So basically, as Mr. Reed stated, there will be a cost to the town for
318 our decisions. But, as Mr. Sadler stated, you know, we voted. We made a decision, and now it's done. So we have to
319 move forward. So we still live in a great town. We still have the same people. We still have the same beaches. We
320 still have the same roads, same parks, still have the same great police department, fire department, [and] same staff
321 other than minus administrators. But we're still standing. So we still have a great town. We just need to use the
322 resources we have and move forward from here to make the best decisions we can so we can, we can make sure that
323 we go into to this vision meeting next week make decisions are right so we can maintain our budget and continue to
324 build our unassigned reserve, because that's very important, and then also we have the pier rebuild, and it's good to
325 hear that finally our federal government may be making a decision for us, and that will be good and we can get
326 moving on that. Thank you very much. I appreciate all the comments, and we do listen to the comments, because
327 although we get comments, and there's a lot of discussion between councilmembers after meetings and before the
328 upcoming meetings, just based on comments we get from you guys, emails, phone calls, comments at meetings. So
329 please keep that up, because you keep our information lines open. Thank you.
330

331 Mr. Stevens: I appreciate everybody coming out. I hope y'all had a good week. I will point out to our
332 people that are running for office now that we are a council form of government that was established in 1976
333 through the State of South Carolina. That means every councilmember has equal opportunity. There's nobody has
334 more power than any other councilmember. In a council form of government it's majority rules. Whether it be seven
335 or six. I know I've been on the one and we had six people voting and I was the lone voter. I don't know if that was a
336 gang of six against me. I've seen it go 4:3, 5:2, we talked about gangs. That's a made up word, because that when

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337 they voted for taxes a few years back to raise the taxes we had the third highest taxes in Horry County. Was that a
338 gang of four that raised taxes? I don't know. You have to make that judgment. As far as, as far as this council is
339 concerned, everybody should go out and vote. That's your democratic privilege. You can go out and vote for the
340 people and decide who you want to vote for. That's what it takes, and I like the fact that y'all are coming out and
341 y'all are speaking, whether you like what happened or you don't like what happened. I don't know that that's a
342 minority that that wanted the things, but I've got a lot of people that there were glad with what we did. Some people
343 didn't like what we did. But, that's the way government works. I mean, let's face it, a few years ago I didn't want the
344 insurance to be nationalized, and then I found out my daughter's insurance went up \$391. I said what happened to
345 my cheap insurance, and I said welcome to government. In closing, we are going to go on. Surfside's gonna be a
346 good town. We're gonna survive. We're going to get things done, and thank y'all for coming out. God bless you all.
347 May the world treat you good [sic] all next week.
348

349 Ms. Samples: Chief Hofmann, I wanted to personally thank you for your efforts the last few weeks and
350 stepping in as the interim administrator. You have done an excellent job at that as we expected you to do. We're not
351 surprised, but certainly appreciate it, and most importantly though, would you please convey to staff how much we
352 appreciate them during this transition, and hope that they continue their commitment to Surfside, because were
353 certainly committed to doing the right thing for them. We hope. So please convey that. Thank you very much.
354 Visioning February 22. You've heard us talk about a lot tonight. Visioning is the big picture of where we hope to get
355 over the next year, hopefully, without any indecisions and distractions. It's an important opportunity for council to
356 hear from staff to see what their thoughts are and to share with staff what our thoughts are. It's enlightening it's a
357 plan of action. It's by no means for sure going to happen. I know a lot of things come out of vision and it needs to be
358 understood that it's just a plan, and it's our hope, and we do expect to have, we like to hear what the needs are, and
359 we like to hear but the wants are, but the needs are certainly our priority. And that's what I hope this council chooses
360 to focus on during visioning February 22 on Thursday [starting] at 9:00 a.m. So, we hope you all come out for that.
361 As it relates to public comments, I do want to have this comment to make based on our last meeting. There were
362 some comments about, there were some comments from the public about people coming and speaking at our
363 meetings, and I felt the need to address that, and that is, I want to say that I agree with everyone up hear. Even
364 though we are divided in many instances, one thing this council, every single person up here, is appreciative of and
365 encouraging of is public comments. Whether you come to every council meeting, and feel compelled to get up and
366 speak every council meeting; whether you have come to your first council meeting, because you were frustrated or
367 outraged by something you may have heard or seen, you're welcome. Whether you are a neighbor of the Town of
368 Surfside Beach, or whether you are second homeowner, your comments are welcome. We encourage them, and no
369 one should be, should be, it should never be suggested that your comments and are not welcomed, because I can
370 assure you this council, every single one of us, welcomes them, and so we appreciate you so much.
371

372 Mayor Childs: I have a couple things. Chief Hofmann, I think I speak for the entire council, we appreciate
373 you taking on the headache that you did. You've done a good job and believe it or not, not one complaint. So, on
374 behalf of the seven, we thank you so much, and we'll know where to find you. The other thing is I think for once I
375 really feel good about the federal government dealing with us on this pier. I really; I know it's frustrating, but if
376 anybody here has ever dealt with the federal government, it's not overnight. The bureaucrats, they have a job to do,
377 and they're gonna do it at their pace, but it was really a good conference call. The state is on board, and for the first
378 time, I really feel that the federal government is on board, and I think we will get what this entire council has wanted
379 at our last workshop. We're gonna get a really good pier; a good resilient pier where we don't have to go back to
380 FEMA again and go through the same exercise that we have gone through. So I really, everybody keep your fingers
381 crossed, and I believe that we're within a couple weeks or so of hearing something positive.
382

383 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Courtney
384 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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386 Prepared and submitted by:

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390 _____
391 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
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Approved: February 27, 2018

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VOTE:

Yes

No

Surfside Beach Town Council

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

Randle M. Stevens, 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.Surfside Beach.org](http://www.SurfsideBeach.org) and the marquee.