



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION MARCH 13, 2018 ♦ 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 13, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2018 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 planning commission (See Business Item 7.F.), and pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice relating to a pending, threatened, or potential claim (See Business Item 7.G.) Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 6:26 p.m. Mr. Ott 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 will be made during the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. as noted on the agenda. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:27 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: Interim Administrator Duckett; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Mr. Johnson gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

Mayor Childs welcomed and introduced Mayor Cornelius Huff, and Mrs. Erin Huff, from Inman, South Carolina. Mayor Huff is a member of the Municipal Association Executive Board.

Mayor Childs announced that Town Council will hold a workshop on Friday, March 23rd at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the pier.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting February 27, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the February 27, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South: I'm here at the request of quite a few people that have talked to me in town the last couple of days, and they are all against the mayor getting a raise. Pretty vocally against it really. So, it just, the whole thing sort of smells like old fish. Thank you.

Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: I just want to mention real quick I see on the meeting agenda tonight, okay, second reading of the ordinance concerning flood damage prevention. I just want to say maybe, real quickly, because I said it before, they are building a lot on the other side of Business 17 and quite a bit in between the two 17s, and a whole lot past 17. Honestly, it's gonna be parking lots, gonna be patios, it's gonna be houses, whole neighborhoods, whole streets, you get the idea. That water is absolutely eventually going to come down our way. I know that a couple, a while back, couple years ago we had a committee and they did very excellent things to protect all of us from flooding in an easy way. They are taking precautions that are more so than what FEMA would regulate or want. But they're doing it to protect us. They've, they know the heart of us who've moved here. We want

57 to protect our land; our houses; our friends. We don't want to flood easily. We have an investment in this town, us
58 taxpayers do. I would just pray and hope that when you go through all this flood damage prevention you would take
59 note of the fact that we're gonna need more care, rather than less care, if people wanted to dumb down what the
60 committee did a while back. They did that in a smart intelligent way. Make it stand firm, because they knew that
61 there was gonna be more building, more concrete and they wanted to protect our little gem of a town called Surfside.
62 So please, I'm just reminding you take good care with this flood water prevention and may God bless you all. Thank
63 you.
64

65 **6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report.** Interim Administrator Duckett said staff had done
66 an excellent job during his absence, and were prepared to report on the various topics. He presented a consensus
67 request to allow the Farmer's Market to be open on Tuesday and Thursday for a trial period of one year. There
68 would be no extra cost to the town. If the two day events proves successful, price would be negotiated for the 2019
69 season. The town currently contributes \$7,500 per year, which covers the cost of organizing the event, on-site
70 management, promotional functions, market supplies, and signage in obtaining and regulating ventures. Mr. Ott said
71 my problem is we have a farmers market every year and every time it opens we lose money. I would like to have
72 you look into this to find out why we can't break even. I believe you can make it break even. Ms. Samples asked Mt.
73 Ott to clarify his statement that we lose money. Mr. Ott said at the end of the season will we lose like \$800 for each
74 time; it cost us money to run the market. Ms. Samples said yes, it cost \$7,500 a year. I was always under the
75 impression that the farmers market isn't there for us to make money. It's provided as a service for our residents and
76 neighbors. That's just one of those many events that the Town of Surfside Beach provides. I never felt that the
77 expectation was that we would be making money off of the farmers market. Mr. Ott said I want to break even, not
78 cost any money, and then we could easily do it two days a week. I figured that we could go to Walmart and buy
79 \$800 worth of fruits and vegetables, and put them out on a table and say here you go. They're free. That's the way I
80 look at it. I'm not looking to make money, but I am not looking for the citizens of the Town of Surfside Beach to pay
81 their tax dollars for this. Mr. Courtney said it's my understanding that in the past when I had to research this that the
82 reason why we are losing money is because we were paying for advertisement. Is that correct? Mr. Duckett said yes.
83 Mr. Courtney said I think that it's well-established and it's posted on 17, I think that people know where it is, and I
84 don't think we need to be paying for advertisements for the farmers market. As Ms. Samples said, it's for the
85 residents and visitors that visit here. My question is should we be paying for advertising and marketing company.
86 Mr. Stevens said I understand that it cost to advertise with this company. We don't have any way to gauge this, but
87 the farmers market does attract a lot of people to come into Surfside. How many of those people go and eat lunch at
88 one of the local restaurants, which increases the hospitality tax? I don't know how you would measure that, but I'm
89 sure that all these people that come into town stop at one of the local restaurants in town and spend their money. If
90 it's benefiting in that way with hospitality tax, then it's definitely a plus for the town. Mayor Childs said I agree with
91 Ms. Samples. This is a community service. There's a lot of activities we have in town that we do not make any
92 money off of. This is something for the community, and I think it's very successful. It puts Surfside on the map as
93 having a great farmers market. Mr. Johnson said I totally agree with adding additional day, because if you don't get
94 down there early enough, you can't get what you want. That will give you another option. To me it's a no-brainer.
95 After this year, we'll take a look at the numbers and see if we need to make adjustments. Mr. Pellegrino said I agree
96 with adding another day. Mr. Ott said I'm not saying that we shouldn't have it. I like it. I know North Myrtle Beach
97 does their own advertising. They don't pay into the cooperative. Mr. Duckett asked if there was consensus. **Council**
98 **CONCURRED.**
99

100 **7. BUSINESS.**

101 **A. Reading Ordinance #18-0864 Chapter 14 Flood Damage Prevention, Interim Administrator**
102 **Duckett.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt reading of Ordinance #18-0864 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. Mr.
103 Duckett presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Ms. Samples asked what the plan
104 was to inform our contractors about the changes in this ordinance once it was adopted. I don't want our contractors
105 to be surprised with new regulations when they apply for permits. There should be plan to distribute information to
106 those impacted when any ordinance is adopted. Mr. Ott suggested that it be added to the business license. All voted
107 in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
108

109 **B. Second Reading Ordinance #18-0865 §2-187(a)(4)(iii) Indigent Defense Fund, Director King.** Mr.
110 Johnson moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #18-0865. Mr. Stevens second, Ms. King presented the
111 decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. She explained that the indigent defense fund was required
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113 by the State. Town Council approved reserving \$5,000 per year until a balance of \$25,000 was reached, and then
114 would need to be maintained at \$25,000. Now, the courts allow us to contract with a lawyer to represent indigents,
115 which cost \$8,000 per year, so there is no need for the reserve fund. Chief Hofmann explained that this is an
116 unfunded mandate by South Carolina Court to meet all legal obligations of advising defendants of their rights and to
117 ensure they have proper representation if they meet the qualifications for indigent defense. All voted in favor.

118 **MOTION CARRIED.**

119
120 **C. First Reading Ordinance #18-0866 §2-20-(a)(1) Mayor's Salary, Interim Administrator Duckett.**

121 Ms. Samples moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0866. Mr. Johnson second. Ms. Samples said council
122 actually discussed this in the workshop that we had last week. We talked about increasing the mayor's salary, which
123 has not been increased since 1992. We are increasing it by \$2,400 annually to the amount recommended in 2006.
124 This it is the not about you, Mr. Mayor, but it is about the position of mayor. I strongly support this is change in
125 salary. Mr. Johnson said most of us agreed that this be changed. We all discussed that the mayor at that time refused
126 to accept the increase, so the mayor's salary was omitted from the ordinance. Mr. Stevens said I'm not in favor of
127 this. We've got more important things to do like the pier, and Highway 17, and so forth. And if I was mayor, I
128 wouldn't accept it. Mr. Courtney said I have respect for the mayor and I understand it's a very tough position to
129 have. He is our public spokesman for our town. He does a little bit more work than council as far as dealing with the
130 public relations. But the increase amount is what I have a problem with. To be fair, we can't pay our police officers,
131 but we're bumping a big percentage of our mayor's salary. I'm concerned about the amount being a little too high,
132 but I do support in getting a raise for the mayor. Mr. Pellegrino said some history on where that \$9,600 came from.
133 Back in 2006, as Mr. Johnson referred to, they did approve a raise of the mayor's pay to \$9,600, but that that never
134 went through for the reason that Mr. Johnson explained. That is where that \$9,600 came from. That was the
135 recommended salary that was never adopted in 2006. Mayor Childs, and Councilmembers Johnson, Pellegrino and
136 Samples voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott and Councilmembers Courtney and Stevens voted against.

137 **MOTION CARRIED.**

138
139 **D. First Reading Ordinance #18-0867 Declining Business Rates, Director King.** Mr. Stevens moved to
140 adopt first reading of Ordinance #18-0867. Ms. Samples second. Ms. King presented the decision paper and
141 ordinance, copies of which are on file. She noted that the discount applied to the amount in each additional level of
142 gross income. Overall, this will affect the town by a decrease in revenue for the 56 businesses that qualify to
143 participate. The total cost is anticipated to be about \$30,000. Mr. Pellegrino said this is something we've been
144 talking about to give incentive to businesses to come to Surfside. This is just one tool in the kit; it's the first step and
145 coupled with the overlay appearance standard, and other things will help us build a case to bring more businesses to
146 Surfside to fill out these empty storefronts. Mr. Stevens said this is a step in the right direction to bring businesses to
147 the town of Surfside. We haven't had any major corporations in this town the last 50 years, except for pharmacies. I
148 look at this as a plus to increase our business opportunities. Hopefully, this will bring them in. Ms. Samples said I
149 agree. I think it is a small beginning step. It only impacts 53 [sic] businesses that do over a million dollars. We need
150 to do a lot more for our businesses. We need to offer a lot more incentives, and I'm hoping that with the passage of
151 this it will begin that process of doing even more. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

152
153 **E. Infrastructure Committee Recommendations, Director Adair.**

154
155 **Underground wiring from 17th Avenue North to Highway 544 on US Highway 17.** Mr. Adair presented
156 the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Horry County District 5 Representative Tyler Servant and County
157 Administrator Gosnell have assured me that after all RIDE 2 projects are completed next year, there should be
158 excess funds from which the county would reimburse the town the cost of between \$200,000 and \$240,000. Nothing
159 is guaranteed, but that is their feeling right now. Consensus was requested to use the town's Santee Cooper franchise
160 fee to complete the county's portion of underground wiring and street lights. Mr. Servant is going to try to add
161 monthly rental on its street lights to the county budget. Mayor Childs said the infrastructure committee met to
162 discuss this, and agreed that it should be done. The Highway 17 project is a one-time project. We won't go back and
163 redo this for aesthetics purposes. The new power station at 10th Avenue North will require lines across Highway 17
164 to feed the west side, although it's gonna feed Deerfield. County Councilman Tyler Servant has assured us as best he
165 can that when RIDE 2 money comes available after they finish the designated road projects, that they would try to
166 come in and give at least 50% of that money back. That's not a guarantee, but Mr. Servant has assured us that he will
167 try, and he feels like he has a pretty good case. At this time, I think infrastructure committee felt it was a worthwhile
168 project. I hope the council agrees. Mr. Ott said I agree with the mayor. The county has all of its money tied up in

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169 projects, and there's no money left for this, but it will be put into next year's budget. We do have a verbal
170 commitment from them. We need to have the same look from the beginning of our town all the way to Highway 544
171 where we are going to put in nice lighting, and there won't be any wires going across Business 17. Mr. Adair said it
172 is too late for the mast arms at Highway 544, but the decorative street lights will be installed. The county doesn't
173 have the benefit of franchise money. Mr. Ott said if this isn't done now, it will never happen. Mr. Stevens asked if
174 he understood correctly that the county would reimburse 100% of its portion of the cost to upgrade up to Highway
175 544. Mr. Adair said yes, we have a verbal commitment from the county administrator and Mr. Servant. Mr. Servant
176 has committed to reimbursing the town for the expenditure to improve the county portion of Highway 17 to 544.
177 The South Strand is important to Mr. Servant. Mr. Courtney said we discussed this in the infrastructure committee
178 meeting. I have to say that aesthetically, I've been pushing for this for two years to increase our businesses on the
179 business corridor. We've been trying to do everything, like getting the overlay put in. Aesthetically, this is in the
180 best interest of the town to do this because it would be awful to come into town and see those eyesore light fixtures
181 as you drive into town. We realized that they never asked for decorative lights, so we were fortunate enough to add
182 them just in time so it would look good. The county has agreed and Mr. Servant has agreed to try to get funds to
183 reimburse us. I think it's a win-win for us, and aesthetically it's going to look great. It is going to help us bring in
184 businesses, and hopefully, with our overlay, which I've been pushing for, this will be a big boost for our taxpayers. I
185 definitely think it's a great move and we're going in the right direction with this. Mr. Pellegrino said I can't agree
186 with this one. Mr. Servant means well, I know. But, we have no idea if RIDE 2 is going to finish under budget. Mr.
187 Servant can't really make commitments like that. We have in the past year asked the county for help with two things:
188 to help with funds for our recreation baseball league at Huckabee Complex, and help pay for our fire calls that we
189 are making in the county. They have not given us any money for either request. I'm sure the county means well, but
190 there's no guarantee we'll ever get that money back. I understand that it's incorporated franchise fees. Those
191 franchise fees are for work in Surfside, not in the County. So we're setting a precedent with this, again, where we're
192 provide county services, because our fire trucks even got calls today in the county and we paid for it. Surfside
193 taxpayers paid for that call. This is one other thing that were doing for the county and the citizens of Surfside are
194 paying for, and I just don't agree with. Ms. Samples said I agree with Mr. Pellegrino completely. I think it speaks
195 volumes that the county cannot take care of their little small portion of the underground wiring from the town limits
196 of Surfside to 544. You know as well as I do that any monies that may fall out of RIDE 2, and that is a 'may,' there
197 is going to be a number of county councilmen fighting for those dollars to go to their projects. So, I'm disappointed
198 in the county. I'm not surprised. I am confused; the \$240,000 that we're going to spend you say is 100% and I heard
199 the mayor say 50%. Mayor Childs said I misspoke. I just wanted to make that clear, and also who pays for the
200 engineering cost? Mr. Adair said that is also franchise fee. Ms. Samples said I'm really uncomfortable about
201 depleting our franchise fee account. I agree about the aesthetics of it all, and yes, it would look nice and that's
202 important. But, I am confounded that the county is not willing to put up that amount of money to underground wire
203 its portion. So, I'm not gonna support it, because I think the county should have to step up. They never step up, and I
204 think they should have to. Mr. Johnson said I would support if we could get something in writing, but I'm sure that
205 will not happen. Mr. Adair said I think the feeling was at the infrastructure committee meeting that when people turn
206 off 544 and onto Highway 17, people have the impression they're coming in Surfside anyway. So to have that look
207 right there rather than driving ten blocks or so and then see improvements is preferable. This will not impact the next
208 phase of the Ocean Boulevard underground wiring project. This is in their original estimate \$1.5 million. So it was
209 agreed upon to push that next phase back a couple of years to do this project. Ms. Samples asked Mr. Adair if during
210 his conversations with the county were they adamant about the fact that there is no money, and said so they are not
211 going to do it, is that correct. We have approached them officially? Mr. Adair said yes. I have email conversations
212 with Administrator Gosnell, and Mr. Servant met with us at the infrastructure committee meeting. Mr. Servant made
213 it clear that they don't have the funds. Ms. Samples asked Mr. Adair if he felt that Mr. Servant was pretty
214 comfortable with the fact that reimbursement would be likely. Mr. Adair said I feel good about it, actually. The
215 numbers that Mr. Servant felt that would be left over from RIDE 2 was in the many millions of dollars, and the 12
216 districts in the county council there would be enough to take care of this, and he's committed to the South Strand. He
217 was very happy that the South Strand was finally getting some GSATS projects, because it hasn't had many projects
218 over the years. We currently have the Glens Bay project, the overpass at Highway 17 Bypass, and there is money in
219 RIDE 3 for intersections all the way to Inlet Square Mall. He said that probably would never happen again for the
220 south end, because the projects are getting more expensive. Ms. Samples asked if RIDE 3 includes the 544
221 intersection. Mr. Adair said no. Mr. Stevens said the county gives us money for road paving in town. Mr. Adair said
222 the funds are from the gas tax collected in town through the County Transportation Committee (CTC.) The county
223 also collects road money through car registrations, from which we get funds for cars with in-town addresses. I would
224 love to have this in writing, but I have to think about that we have to establish a relationship with the county,

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225 because sometimes in the future we may need to ask the county to do something for us that we can't do. Some way
226 or another we have to work together. That's the way I look at it. Mr. Ott said this GSATS Highway 17 project has
227 probably existed about a decade. If we don't do the underground wiring, and wait until after they resurface it, it will
228 never be able to do it. Mr. Servant has agreed to put that in writing at that meeting, because I asked him about that.
229 We'll see if he follows up on that. I will talk to him again. Mr. Adair said that in 10 years, the town might decide
230 that they want to annex that little piece of Highway 17 up to Highway 544, and then the infrastructure would already
231 be in place. Mr. Ott said negotiations should be have been done with the county during the GSATS meetings. Mr.
232 Adair said the underground wiring was added in the last year as the plans were reviewed, we decided it was time to
233 upgrade the infrastructure. I have to have an answer for our design firm so the final electrical plan can be delivered
234 to the state by the end of the month. Mayor Childs said it would be up to councilmembers to remind Mr. Servant of
235 his commitment about this money as time goes on. I felt comfortable in that meeting that he's going to really try his
236 best to get it for us. For obvious reasons, he couldn't put that in writing, because he can't really guarantee anything.
237 But he felt comfortable that millions of dollars would be left over from RIDE 2, and we would get a portion of that.
238 Mr. Courtney said Mr. Servant petty much assured the infrastructure subcommittee, and he would not go back on his
239 word. You have to think about this long-term. We are trying to improve business corridor. We're trying to push an
240 overlay. We need to bring tax revenue in here so your taxes don't go up. It has to be appetizing for people to come
241 here. We want tourists to stay here. We want to keep them here. We want to invite them in. We want to open that
242 door, and for that little strip to roll the dice and not do it, we would never be able to do it again. With that
243 aesthetically it would be inviting people in from the Ocean Lakes and also other areas to come down south to use
244 our businesses and enjoy eating at our restaurants. So I think would be a plus. I think would be foolish for us not to
245 do it, and I don't think Mr. Servant would go back on his word. I think he will do everything he possibly can to get
246 those funds return to us. Mr. Stevens asked if this would all be paid by the Santee Cooper franchise fee. Mr. Adair
247 said yes, and I've already confirmed that we are allowed to use our franchise fees outside the town limit; it's our
248 discretion. Mr. Stevens reminded everyone that a few years ago we had a problem with our trash pickup on Ocean
249 Boulevard. Mr. Servant was instrumental in helping solve that problem very quickly. I think Mr. Servant will come
250 through for us. I know I will talk to him about it every day. Based on past experience with Mr. Servant, I support
251 this. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, and Stevens concurred.
252 Councilmembers Samples and Pellegrino demurred. **Council CONCURRED.**

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256 ***3rd Avenue South Promenade underground wiring and town pay for connection fees.*** Mr. Adair
257 presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Mayor Childs said this, too, is a worthwhile project. We
258 want to mirror Surfside Drive at 3rd Avenue South. A number of the businesses on 3rd Avenue have a hard time
259 renting, because of the aesthetic look of the buildings. We do have money to do that work. Mr. Adair said we're
260 ready to sign the engineering agreement once the scope of work is approved. Ms. Samples said I agree with that,
261 because it's in town. Mr. Pellegrino said this is already a budget project, and it is in the town limits of Surfside
262 Beach, and we can pay for it with franchise funds, so yes, I agree. Mr. Johnson said I agree, as well. Mr. Courtney
263 said I agree. Mr. Ott said you have consensus. Mr. Adair asked if council would concur to pay for the commercial
264 businesses' meter box conversion so there would be uniformity on the street. The cost is also reimbursable from the
265 franchise fee. Ms. King noted that Santee Cooper franchise fees reimburses 85%, other reimbursement comes from
266 other utility franchises. **Council CONCURRED to underground wiring of 3rd Avenue South Promenade and
267 the alley way, and to pay for the meter box conversions.**

268
269 ***Collins Engineers initial scope of work for pier design; authorization to execute initial scope of work.***
270 Mr. Adair presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Council was asked for consensus for the interim
271 administrator to execute the agreement for the initial scope of work. **Council CONCURRED.**

272
273 **F. Committee Appointments: Planning Commission (2 Vacancies) Mr. Vince Canfora, Ms. Mary
274 Mabry, Mr. Boyd Sadler.** Mr. Stevens moved to appoint Ms. Mary Mabry and Mr. Boyd Sadler to the planning
275 commission. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

276
277 **G. Motions or directions resulting from Executive Session.** Mr. Johnson moved to direct the interim
278 administrator to seek legal advice on the personnel matter discussed in executive session. Mr. Ott second. All voted
279 in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

280

281 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**
282

283 **A. Grant Writing Program proposed by Ms. Holly Watson, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott.** Mr. Ott said I
284 put this on the discussion to get consensus from our council so that we could ask Mrs. Watson to give us a
285 PowerPoint presentation in the next meeting, and I would like to have it put in our communication section, where
286 she can show the council how individuals can ask and investigate getting grants for the Town of Surfside Beach.
287 These grants will be [approved] by the Town of Surfside Beach Council. Nobody can just start looking for grants.
288 They have to be approved by council first. Mr. Stevens said I concur. Ms. Samples asked if the presentation was to
289 focus on how to apply for grants. Mr. Ott said I have not seen the presentation, but it is about why we should have
290 individuals, not our staff, and they should be able to come to the town and asked for permission to look for certain
291 for grants, and they would be paid by only if they receive the grants. Ms. Samples said I love that idea. Do you know
292 how long the presentation will be; should it be a council meeting or a workshop? Mr. Ott said I don't think it will be
293 more than five or ten minutes. Ms. Samples said if it is no more than that I have no problem hearing it during a
294 council meeting. In the past we have had individuals write grants for the Town of Surfside Beach. Former Mayor
295 Samples was awarded a grant \$1,000* from Walmart, and the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee was
296 awarded a grant for 100 trees, I think. We know that individuals can write grants, but we also recognize that grant
297 writers cannot be paid on a contingency or commission basis. Mr. Ott said that is right. Ms. Samples said I support
298 informing and educating. Mr. Ott said he would ensure the time frame was correct. Mr. Courtney said anybody that
299 can help us financially by getting grants, I'm all for it. **Council CONCURRED. *\$4,000 changed to \$1,000**
300 **scrivener's error dh**
301

302 **B. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.**
303

304 Mr. Courtney said I was very surprised to find out, especially as a councilmember, resident and family
305 man, we have drug heroine halfway homes in our community, and there's more coming. We were never told about
306 this. There are three now that are occupying 12 people. Not that I'm against rehabilitation of heroin or drugs, is this a
307 place to be? Quite frankly, no, because from my experience as a police officer, if you're gonna in rehab you
308 definitely don't want to be near the beach where there's bars or where you're close to the city lines where you can
309 get access to these drugs. Now we have two on the south end and we have one on the north end, as far as I know.
310 There might be more coming. Does anybody have any knowledge of this? Ms. Samples asked if he was talking
311 about sober living homes. I know that it's been brought to our attention. Mr. Courtney said I wasn't brought attention
312 to any of this, and I've been on council for two years. Ms. Samples said no, we just all got emails from a concerned
313 resident who said that they believed that we have homes in in the Town of Surfside Beach that are sober living
314 homes. But, you just mentioned drug activity. Mr. Courtney said he never said drug activity. I said rehabilitation of a
315 drug halfway homes with 12 or more people occupying them. One of the homes is actually converting a garage into
316 more rooms. Ms. Samples asked Chief Hofmann if he was aware of that. Chief Hofmann said I had no knowledge of
317 this. I don't know that there is anything that would prohibit it. But, I will work with the interim administrator as
318 directed. Mr. Duckett said this is a subject that's been discussed in every city that I know of. Federal law protects
319 rehab. Multiple people in a single-family home is protected by federal law. Mr. Courtney said I know that. Mr.
320 Duckett said I can't imagine that federal law has changed, but I can research it. Mr. Courtney said I understand that.
321 I don't have a problem rehabilitation, but I do have a problem that notifying these residents of this activity in the
322 community. I think the homeowners should be notified. If it was next to your house, you would be quite upset about
323 this when you have 12 people living in a R1. One of the houses is in R2. That's 12 vehicles and they rotate, so these
324 are three homes that we know of that are in our community now. We are tourist destination. We are family beach,
325 and I have no problem, but if I had a drug or alcohol problem, the last place I would be would be at the beach or
326 near the city line where you can get heroine or easy access, and it should be moved now. You would figure they
327 would be in a place where there are horses and places where they couldn't reach this stuff. My main concern is that
328 the public was not aware of this. Mr. Ott said every year low income housing comes up and it's always declined by
329 the council. It's been going on for decades. Now in our R2 zone we have multiple-person homes which violates our
330 ordinances. Yet, nobody was notified. I don't think you were notified, Mr. Duckett. You do understand the law as
331 you stated, but to have these here with no knowledge to the council I believe that is incorrect. We should know
332 what's coming into our neighborhoods. Maybe some people don't care, but if it was next to their house, we'd all
333 care, and that's why we need to understand how this happened. Who was involved and somebody must've given
334 them the blessing. They didn't just come in here. They've done renovations on these houses, and there were no
335 permits. Mr. Courtney said I'm very disturbed that our police chief was not aware of them, and that's very
336 disappointing, because people do relapse and they go back into this. Again, you have 12 people living in a single-

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337 family residence home in a residential community. We're so [busy] chasing people about parking spots in their own
338 backyard and passing our ordinances that we have no knowledge of these homes being in town, and there are three
339 of them that are actively in this community now. They are operating. Yes, they are covered on the Disabilities Act
340 and now you cannot remove them. I'm all about rehabilitation, but I'm just very disturbed to find out that our chief
341 of police didn't even know about this. Mayor Childs said the only information I have was in the email I received,
342 just like you did. Mr. Duckett said it's federal law; maybe they didn't have tell anybody. Mr. Duckett said I don't
343 remember the details, but I remember dealing with this issue, because it's a hot issue in every town. Mr. Stevens said
344 I wonder if we can get a copy of the federal laws so council can look at it as a group. I would be the same way if
345 somebody put a halfway house beside me. I wouldn't want it beside my home. Until we know what the law is and
346 until we know what actually we can do about these things, I think it's important that we get all the information first.
347 Let's not make a harsh decision until we know the facts. Mr. Pellegrino asked for town ordinances that deal with this
348 issue also. Mr. Courtney said one of those three homes are now converting the two-car garage into bedrooms. I will
349 give you that information privately. Mr. Ott asked Mr. Johnson to contact the Municipal Association to contact them
350 for information. Mr. Johnson said he would be glad to.
351

352 Ms. Samples said the discussion item that I have is really for Mr. Duckett, and it has to do with our plastic
353 bag ordinance that is going to happen come June. I know that the previous administrator was working on an
354 informational package for our businesses to inform and educate them on options. I'm not sure what's happened with
355 that. I certainly would like for the town to be able to provide to our businesses some help and assistance in making
356 the transition easy for them. There are resources in the community that we can get to help with that, but I know that
357 Ms. Fellner also discussed having an open house to provide some options to our businesses. So I would just ask if
358 you could follow up on that, because I would hate for June to come and go and not provide that type of assistance.
359 As you know, it's very easy for us to go and in enact laws and make changes, but if we do not follow up with
360 information and help, then we're setting everyone up to fail. So you could follow up with that I would be most
361 appreciative, if council is good with that. Mr. Courtney said if I was the correct, I believe we had brochures made up
362 and they cost us \$7,000 to make up; "Welcome to the Town of Surfside Beach, Were Open for Business.' Are we
363 talking about the same thing? Ms. Samples said absolutely not. We're talking about the plastic bag ban ordinance
364 that is coming into effect, and providing some support and assistance to our businesses, since we have the have
365 enacted this law. We certainly need to, if you all agree, to follow up with some support in making that transition
366 easy. Mr. Ott said we need to start that as soon as possible, because this will also affect the Farmers Market, because
367 they won't be able to distribute their goods single-use plastic bags, and also every other event like the BBQ Festival.
368

369 Mr. Stevens said I want to bring this to everybody's attention. We talk about our police force, and we talk
370 about how the good they are now. I always said they were best in the Pee Dee area. Well, the fact is that we have the
371 third safest town in the State of South Carolina. So when you look at our policemen riding around; wonder why we
372 don't have a lot of crime, it's because of our police do the job. Third safest town in the State of South Carolina. One
373 of the towns that was nominated above us is a gated community called Tega Cay south of Charlotte on the Catawba
374 River. The other one is five miles off of Highway 17. Highway 17 is one of the most traveled roads in the United
375 States. We have Highway 17 Business running right through our town and you know if you get out on Highway 17
376 we've got business everywhere. So when you see Chief Hofmann, or Officer Valentine who's standing at the back,
377 and all the other policeman thank them wholeheartedly. This is been released to the media. You'll learn about it, but
378 I wanted everybody to know. It's so good that we have a police department that has gotten us to that level. Third
379 safest city in the whole State of South Carolina. That is a great thing that we can talk about, and I want to thank you,
380 Chief Hofmann for doing the job. This is something we can all be proud of. *(Applause)* We're not perfect, but we're
381 coming in number three. If we were in the Olympics, we'd win a bronze metal. Mr. Ott said I like add that we give
382 all the kudos to our police chief, but it's his team does all the work, and we appreciate every one of them. Mayor
383 Childs said yes, Chief, you're doing a good job. Congratulations.
384

385 Mr. Courtney said we had brochures for Open for Business and I had a business that went in and said that
386 they had one before, and I am curious. We had printed out \$7,000 worth a brochures that said that we are Open for
387 Business - Please Come In. The funds came out of many departments, because they didn't have the money. So it was
388 about \$7,000 worth funds. These brochures are nowhere to be found. He asked Mr. Duckett to find out what
389 happened to them. Ms. Samples said when I asked that question at the vision workshop, Ms. Morris said she has
390 been using them, so she must have some. Mr. Stevens said he talked with Ms. Morris about that and she said she had
391 some, but there was a whole bunch of 'em, almost \$7,000 worth that disappeared. So I wonder where they went, and
392 we need to find out what happened to 'em, because four color process printing and it disappears, I have to ask the

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393 question why? Why did it disappear? I don't know who made it disappear, but those brochures did disappear. We
394 need 'em back.
395

396 Mr. Stevens said I attended the business committee meeting this morning and the guest at the business
397 committee was two of the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee members. They have made some proposals to
398 the business committee. I'm sure the business committee will bring 'em to us. One of the things they want to do
399 sometime in November is something called 'A Wonderful Life in Surfside Beach.' If you think about this town, all
400 the benefits we have; just like we had the BBQ Festival, 7 to 10,000 people there; we have the Family Festival in
401 October, we have all these other events that are going on all the time, and this is what makes this town neat. That's
402 why the late Councilmember Ralph Magliette used to call Surfside a little gem of the town. It is a great town. It's
403 got a lot of good citizens in it. They come from all over, from every part of the country. So I'm looking forward to
404 the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee having something in there. They're going to have a function where
405 they'll invite all the committees first and then they'll invite all the public. I think this is going to be something that is
406 going to be beneficial to the town in the future. We'll keep you apprised [sic] on what they're doing. Thank you.
407

408 Ms. Samples asked if the council candidates could be recognized before we go to public comments. Mayor
409 Childs said I was going to do that, because I missed doing that the beginning of the meeting.
410

411 Mr. Courtney said we spoke about this before. I'm going to ask consensus of council to bring back second
412 reading of Ordinance #16-0829 to accept South Poplar Drive from Surfside Drive to Melody Lane. The reason why
413 I'm bringing this under discussion is the first reading was adopted on July 12, 2016. It has come to my attention that
414 a concerned citizen has been raising Cain about the stop signs, and I think the people need to know what's going on.
415 The mayor and I spoke about this and it was going to come back for second reading, but it would have to go back
416 under discussion before it came back. Back on July 12 of 2016 first reading was passed, and we were going to take
417 the road from Surfside Drive to Melody Lane, because we had a traffic condition where we had multiple accidents.
418 We had injuries. We had kids ejected out of the car. We spoke to GSATS (Grand Strand Area Transportation Study)
419 and we went in with the road with US 17 with the business corridor when they are repaving it prior to me getting on
420 council we spoke to Michael at Seaside Elementary, and along myself with Mr. Cabell Young and a few other
421 councilmembers who were not on council have advocated and so have the residents of Ocean Pines One, Ocean
422 Pines Two, and the residents from that area. Now what had happened was we had first reading passed on July 12,
423 2016 and then we were given an email from the administrator saying that SCDOT (South Carolina Department of
424 Transportation) had changed; reconsidered their position on this, and they installed the stop signs. Then it was
425 brought to my attention later that they did not give permission. So now the problem that exist is that we've had them
426 up for two years, and if we take him down the liability is on this town. Unfortunately, they should have been
427 clarified back in July 2016. There are two four-way intersection that were put there, and again, this was advocated
428 prior to me getting on council. This was going to be pushed through part prior to that, but we voted on it. To take
429 them out at this time, and God forbid someone was to get hurt or even possibly killed, the liability would fall on this
430 council, these residents and this town. So, I ask that we bring second reading at the next council meeting for
431 Ordinance #16-0829. If necessary, I have the email messages that I can share. Mayor Childs said I think the question
432 is does the town want to take over the entire road because of some stop signs. We're gonna be responsible for
433 paving that road ad anything along that line. I'd give that some thought. That's the big thing; does the town want
434 take on a state road. Mr. Courtney asked Mr. Adair if it was true that if we did take over that road that after repaving
435 it we would get all the money back from CTC money. Mr. Adair said yes. The state does not repave any of its roads
436 in town. We would have to do with CTC or road money. We maintain the drainage anyway. As I said at the time in
437 June 2016 when this was under discussion, I have no issue with the town taking over the road. It's high and dry. It's
438 out of the flood zone, and it's in pretty good shape. Mr. Courtney said I hate to see after two years of having a four-
439 way there taking it out and then someone gets killed or in a critical accident. Police Chief Keziah's police cruiser
440 was broadsided there. We lost a police vehicle on that boulevard, because of the high speeds that they were doing.
441 When we spoke to GSATS back in 2016, we informed them that when they put in a light at 10th Avenue South they
442 were putting a turning lane turning east onto 10th Avenue South. We spoke to Mike Wooten who was the SCDOT
443 director, and we stated we were concerned about the volume of traffic from Garden City and Ocean[side Village].
444 We get the through traffic that comes down. So with that agreement from GSATS they would install those stop signs
445 at that time. Mr. Wooten said he would approved it and I don't know what happened. Mr. Pellegrino asked Mr.
446 Adair to send an email to councilmembers with the information to explain what went on with SCDOT at that time.
447 Mr. Adair said several people asked me about it since yesterday, so I refreshed my memory. I will send an email
448 message to you all. It was brought under discussion; several speed studies were done by the police department in

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449 that area in the year or two prior to that; we asked SCDOT about three times to install four way stop signs; they felt
450 it didn't have engineering bases. As I've said before, the SCDOT philosophy is that they don't like installing stop
451 signs for speed control. The council had a discussion in June. First reading was adopted July 12, 2016. Several days
452 later, the former administrator emailed everybody saying that the SCDOT had a change of position, and they would
453 be okay with it. I was directed several weeks later to install stop signs by the previous administrator. I'm finding out
454 now from the SCDOT engineering office that was an unauthorized activity. So my recommendation would be to
455 continue on as Mr. Courtney said with the process to take over that road, then it would be at our disposal to do with
456 as we want. I have seen improvement in safety in that area. Mr. Johnson said I would like to have all the documents
457 in the next council package. Mayor Childs asked if this discussion was to take over the entire Poplar Drive. Mr.
458 Adair said it would be for whatever council request. Mr. Courtney said the stop signs on Poplar Drive were placed
459 improperly, and there are other areas in town that have had signs improperly placed. The mayor and I spoke about
460 this and he was in favor of taking it and when we had brought this to Council back in 2016, we were looking to take
461 over from Melody Lane to 10th Avenue South. Then the mayor suggested that we take some Surfside Drive to
462 Melody because that would help us with the 3rd Avenue South business project improvements. Ms. Samples said
463 it's also a huge liability. Clearly, from what I'm hearing, we have signs up that shouldn't've been put up, because we
464 don't have approval from SCDOT. Let me also say the council directs the administrator and the administrator directs
465 staff. This needs to be discussed. Obviously, we have signs up that that were not approved by SCDOT so we have
466 no decision, no vote was ever taken to take over the road officially. So we need to decide whether to take over the
467 road. I get Mr. Courtney's concern that those signs have been up for two years, and so if we take them down that's
468 really going to mess with people. But, they are up without approval, and that's can really mess with the town, if
469 there's any sort of potential liability as we discussed at the last meeting. This is some pretty serious stuff. We need to
470 find out what happened. Mr. Ott said I can probably answer that from what I've been hearing, and it seems that we
471 were going into our second reading on that and we were going to take the road over, and we were told by the
472 previous administrator that did not need to happen; that there was an agreement with SCDOT, which obviously there
473 wasn't. So there was a fib. We were told something that was, I'm gathering, was false. It's there in an email. There
474 was no agreement with South Carolina Department of Transportation that we did not have to take that road over, but
475 we were told that there was. So I gather if somebody tells you something that really didn't happen that's a fib. Is it a
476 white lie or the truth? I don't know. (**) Ms. Samples asked Mr. Adair if he put the signs up after being directed to
477 by the former administrator. Mr. Adair said yes. Ms. Samples asked if he knew at that point in time that SCDOT
478 approved or did not approve. Mr. Adair said I was told that SCDOT had approved them. Ms. Samples said so you
479 put them up based on that but clearly, we hadn't had second reading to take over the road. Mr. Stevens said I agree
480 with exactly what Mr. Ott said. We were told that it was okay put up the signs. Before those signs were put up, I
481 remember cars flying down Poplar Drive. I also remember a car being totaled on that street. My understanding since
482 those stop signs have been there traffic accidents have gone down. Now the question you really need to ask is it
483 common sense to have public safety. You're dad-gum right it is. If putting up stop signs will keep somebody from
484 getting in a wreck or getting killed or a citizen getting badly hurt; that road was a dragstrip. I've parked on the side
485 of road and a car flew by at about 60 miles an hours as I started to open the door. I think it's a 30 mile an hour road.
486 The fact is I'd like to bring it back. Public safety is the most tantamount thing to the town citizens [sic]. We have to
487 keep our citizen safe, and if stop signs will help keep them safe help, and help stop wrecks; wrecks have been
488 reduced at that intersection, and I know by tremendous amount. Mr. Courtney said there have been zero wrecks in
489 the two years the stop signs have been up. Mayor Childs asked Chief Hofmann if he would bring a report with
490 current findings. Chief Hofmann said yes sir. When the speed studies were done, they were indicative that there was
491 not a speeding problem, but maybe the road was narrow, pedestrian traffic, and that type of thing going across there
492 contributed to the problems. There was a history of accidents at that intersection. I will get some information
493 together and make sure there haven't been any other accidents. Ms. Samples said I'm not questioning the public
494 safety of it, obviously. You wanted stop signs up, you put stop signs up. I'm not questioning whether they should
495 stay or go. My concern is that we put up stop signs on a state road when SCDOT told us not to or told us that they
496 were not allowed. That's what I'm concerned about, not whether they should be there shouldn't be there or the safety
497 of them. What we're talking about is following the rules so the town is not liable. Mr. Adair said I advised the
498 administrator the time of that fact, and I was told to put them up anyway. Ms. Samples said I'll be curious to see all
499 those emails, quite frankly. Mr. Courtney said as far as SCDOT after first reading is given, is it true that you were to
500 put the application in at that time. Mr. Adair said no, the application is not submitted until after second reading. The
501 application is irrevocable. We could not take it back if the second reading was not approved. Mr. Courtney asked
502 what the solution is. You have an intersection and there are others that I know of that have been put up that are
503 improper. Are we going to take over a small portion of road that will cost nothing to maintain to ensure the safety of
504 senior citizens and children or are we gonna take a chance and lose a life? Is it worth it? The studies that Chief

505 Hofmann mentions also included golf cart traffic as well. Is that correct? Chief Hofmann indicated yes. Mr.
506 Courtney said so they couldn't get a true study done. But it was the recommendation of the chief of the time, it was
507 the recommendation of public works at that time to have it done. Mr. Adair said that was correct. Mr. Courtney
508 asked how many accidents do you need. Does it take someone to be killed before we put in a traffic calming device?
509 When I approached SCDOT originally, they had said they wanted to put speed bumps traffic calming devices. When
510 we spoke to the Chief Keziah, he said those would've been probably more deadly. So that's why we went with the
511 stop signs, not to slow down traffic, but to allow pedestrian crossing and to let our children's get on and off school
512 buses from the elementary and high school. We also have rush-hour traffic. Yes, there was a huge mistake made, but
513 again, an email was sent, and I'll read it to you: *SCDOT, Dear Council, SCDOT has reconsidered their position on*
514 *the stop signs*, and at that time Mr. Pellegrino was going to express his concerns when we brought it back for second
515 reading. But after that email, we deferred the ordinance. When you defer something, it stays on the table, so that's
516 why we are discussing it again today. First reading passed with four votes. So it was going to pass, and again it will
517 not cost us anything to repave the road. It's good for 20 years, and the CTC money picks up the paving and the state
518 picks up the rest, is that correct? Mr. Adair said yes. Mr. Courtney said so is it worth someone's life to take control
519 of that road? Mr. Johnson said if we combine all of this information and let us look over it prior to the next council
520 meeting, and then we can discuss it in a more expeditious manner. **Council CONCURRED to bring second**
521 **reading of Ordinance #16-0829 at the next regular meeting.** Ms. Samples suggested that a list of all stop signs
522 that Mr. Courtney suggested have been put up illegally be given to councilmembers. Mr. Adair said I don't know
523 which ones those are. Ms. Samples suggested that Mr. Adair and Mr. Courtney meet so he can share where they are.
524

525 Mayor Childs asked at that the council candidates introduce themselves. Mr. Cabell Young, Ms. Debbie
526 Scoles, Ms. Carol Cook, Mr. Bruce Dietrich, Mr. Tim Courtney, and Mr. David Pellegrino were present.
527

528 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments. (5-minutes per speaker)**
529

530 Mr. Vince Canfora, 3rd Avenue South: I am also a former police officer. I'm up here today to address a
531 question that Councilman Courtney, you asked our police chief at the last meeting, and that's what's happening with
532 our police officers. Five minutes isn't long enough. What I've done is I've prepared a 42 page report. I'm gonna
533 give it to the town clerk. She's gonna make copies for all of you. Basically it's a plan of what we can do to recruit,
534 assess, and retain a diverse police force. This isn't a problem that's been created by Chief Hofmann. He inherited it.
535 Before him [Chief Keziah] inherited it. Before him [Chiefs Christenson and Frederick.] It's just the way it's been
536 done. The problem is changed, we haven't changed anything. We continue to do things just the way it's been done.
537 It's time to switch things up or we're gonna keep losing officers. Money is great. Every cop loves money. I can
538 promise you that. But they need more. They need a balance in work and home life. They need a reason to be here.
539 They need to feel appreciated, which I can tell you right now there's not one person sitting in here that's gonna tell
540 you our police force isn't appreciated. So, I'll leave this with her. I'll be happy to answer questions. I'm easy to find.
541

542 Mr. Nick Delaplane, 13th Avenue North: I was excited that you're gonna have a work, finally have a
543 workshop on the pier, and I know that you been waiting for the final number, so you had a good reason to put it off.
544 But, I know that you've also done an engineering study that includes three options. This engineering study has been
545 around a while and it had a lesser number for expected funds from FEMA. So, we're better off than that shows, and
546 less liability to the town. However, it also shows three options to go from 6,000 square feet on the buildings to
547 19,000 square feet. Each of which shows the same amount of income expected for the town. So it is totally
548 misleading as to which option you might take. So, I just heard tonight some discussion on it that this engineering
549 firm is going to do some more work on this. I don't know what their qualifications are as far as developing
550 commercial properties and real estate, sizing potential restaurant spaces, size of decks, the whole business of, but
551 they are experts out there, and I would hope, and I'm pretty sure that certainly nobody in this town is qualified to do
552 commercial development. At least I've never heard of it. I hope we do have somebody, but I don't think so. So, I'm
553 suggesting that this is one of the biggest opportunities that Surfside has for the next 15 years, and it's gotta be done
554 right. I would hope that you would come, that you hire, or whatever you have to do to get smart and get them to
555 present various options to the city, town, as to which way to go options A, B, or C. My hope is that you will go with
556 the larger square footage, because is going to generate a lot of income for this town, which supports your
557 conversations over the last few years that we've gotta do more for the town to generate excitement, we've gotta do
558 this, we've gotta do that. This is your opportunity to do it right. So I say get the experts in, and give yourself a
559 chance to do it right. Thank you.
560

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561 Ms. Meg Perrino, Cedar Drive North: First, I want to thank you, Mr. Stevens, for sharing our accolades.
562 The Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee does have a lot of initiatives this year, such as "It's a Wonderful
563 Life" holiday light-up and the inner committee networking things. We also have one vacancy on our committee and
564 we have a meeting that's open to the public this Friday. I've invited Mr. Courtney and Mr. Mayor. I hope you will
565 find time to attend. That will be at the fire station on the second floor at 10 o'clock. I also wanted to speak to speak
566 to the halfway houses. I know growing up as, this is not to be snobby, but upper-middle-class child, drugs were not
567 in my wheelhouse. It wasn't until I lost my 23-year-old sister to a guy that was on heroine that crashed into her and
568 killed her, and then not shortly after that, my younger sister who's 23, became a heroin addict. She's been in and out
569 of rehab for five years. Okay, so I learned about this, because it was thrown in my face. It's not something that I
570 have ever had any exposure to, but I can promise you one thing, there are drugs in those houses. I am in a mothers
571 group of Surfside. I'm on the beautification committee. You can tell by looking at my face that this is something that
572 I am dead serious about, okay. Eighty percent of halfway houses have relapse rates. There are drugs in those houses.
573 My sister's been kicked out of four in the last six months, before she came home, and my parents moved out of their
574 house to let her live there so they can live on their yacht, because they cannot stand being around her. This is a very
575 serious problem that cannot let be in our town. Okay, I was in Fuller Park and had to call the police, because a
576 grown man and a grown woman went into the park into the boy's bathroom and locked themselves in there. I'm
577 there with my friend two-year-old and a three-year-old. The police came and he could not get them to come out,
578 because they flushed everything that they had, okay, and they were familiar with these people. So this is in our
579 children's parks. You cannot let this go, promise me. I want to thank John Adair for working with the Keep Surfside
580 Beach Beautiful Committee to get more children at play signs put up for parents who love their children and want to
581 see the children grow up here, as well, okay. Thank you.
582

583 Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North: To begin, you know, I was not raising Cain. I want to straighten that
584 out right here. Mr. Courtney: *Point of order*... Mayor Childs: He's not mentioned any names. Mr. Shore: I will say I
585 questioned the legality of 'em and if it was such a concern, why did the person that moved to table it, not bring it
586 back and wait two years? That's what I question, okay? So, I got no [sic] problem with stop signs. But in speaking
587 with a retired highway patrolman, a veteran highway patrolman, he said stop sign do not stop accidents, and I'm all
588 for safety. I'm not against safety. But, if you do things, you do it legally, and like I said, if it was such a concern,
589 somebody should've been on the top of it. Regardless, he said she said. I'd like to see the email where that person
590 said that. I would like to see it, okay. So, I just want to be straight that my concern is the legality of it, and I was told
591 by the DOT they were illegal. That's what I had to go on, and I have the documentation to prove it. Mr. Courtney:
592 Sir, I haven't named you. Mr. Shore: I didn't ask you if you named me. Mayor Childs: *Point of order* (gavel). That's
593 it, please. Mr. Shore: Okay, thanks. Mr. Courtney: Excuse me? Mr. Mayor. Mayor Childs: Mr. Courtney, please.
594

595 Ms. Brittany Lynn Shubert, 2 hours north of Toronto, Canada: What brought me to Surfside is my family
596 has been vacationing here for 20-some odd years; 25 some of 'em, and I am in an environmental ethics class at
597 university in Canada, and the plastic bag issue here is rampant in Canadian universities. You guys are everywhere,
598 not Myrtle Beach, Surfside township is in our textbooks. Our professors are talking about; it's everywhere. So here
599 it might seem like a small issue, but you have actually drawn international attention by what you're doing here, and
600 so you are a small gem of a town, but I guess I'm saying is that you're not as small as you think you are. So, the
601 things that I want to address through this is the pier for \$9 million. So I'm just wondering first of the 9 million, is
602 that a grant or a stipend cause it was destroyed, right? So, where did that money come from? Is that an imbursement
603 to build it? Mayor Childs: Ma'am, we can't answer your questions, you can address it to the administrator after the
604 meeting, and he will be glad to answer them. Ms. Shubert: So I guess I'm saying from here is that raising the
605 mayor's pay, again \$9 million pier development, things like that, taking away those plastic bags, I understand that
606 paper may not be the best option going through, I know that was something that was brought up, and it's
607 biodegradable, but it is harmful and it will also be a problem, but so where I suggest is why offer paper at all? I
608 come from a smaller town in Canada, and there's not really anything available. You bring your totes everywhere you
609 go, and that's how it works. Paper was never an option when plastic was around anymore, so that is something I'd
610 like to address, as well as you guys can be the spark in this. You're a small town, but if you do it first who's to stop
611 the next and the next, and before you know it, people who aren't doing it are going to be the bad guys. So you guys
612 can spark something here that's actually make environmental history, especially in the southern United States. It
613 might not seem large to you on your agenda, but it's massive, because we're hearing about it in Canada. It's
614 international interest at this point. The only other things that I wanted to address were some of the things that were
615 discussed tonight. In my small town, I went to high school that's in our downtown. We were surrounded by drugs
616 from the second you walked in the door to the second you walked out. It was being sold in our parking lots. It was

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617 being sold in our hallways. It was being flushed down our toilets, and it is a small school. It was a small private
618 Christian education, and it was everywhere, and I guess I'm saying; my father's been a police officer in Toronto with
619 the drug squadrons there for 30 years now. If you have a heroine problem, get rid of it right now, because it will
620 spread so quickly. I can't even express to you; you have one house, and I can agree with the lovely woman that
621 spoke here before, it starts one, it moves so quickly houses. If they have outlets, if they have houses, if they have
622 places to burn it, if they have places to measure it, it's going to be wildfire. So you have to deal with it, please do it
623 now, because it will spread so much faster than you think it will. I think that's all I really had to say. As far as the
624 stop signs go, in my small town we have racing streets. We have streets where people fly down at down at double,
625 triple, quadruple the limit. However fast they can get their cars going. (**) and I can tell you right now, stop signs
626 don't always stop that. You know, you always look both ways to see there's no cars coming. They're not slowing
627 down. They're going right through that stop sign. And so, I think all I can say there is until you've got the proper
628 approval for it, I know that's up in the air right now, but whether you did or not, so I can't speak too truly to that, but
629 if it's not there yet, monitor the streets like nothing else. Give people the \$3,000 car impounding tickets. Do it, and I
630 know your police force may not be large, and they might not be paid well enough; they might have a lack of
631 motivation, because of their pay, because of their hours, things like that. But if you turn around and people start
632 getting smacked, people are gonna learn you do not speed down those streets and until then, you need activism for
633 approval. Put together those reports. Bring it to Horry County. Bring it to South Carolina State. Whoever it needs to
634 go to. Bring them the reports, the statistics, whatever you need. Whatever bleeding heart report you need to get those
635 stop signs put in place, and to get some enforcement in there; whatever it needs. But deal with those issues, because
636 if you are tourist town, and that's the image you're trying to produce, you can't have speeding cars and drugs
637 moving through your town, and that's all I have to say. So, I thank you.
638

639 Mr. Don Reed, 16th Avenue South: At the Town Council meeting I saw, last council meeting, I saw two of
640 Surfside's best policemen. I respect both the officers, because of their position, the hard work that they've chosen to
641 do, just as I respect each of the Town Councilmembers for their position and the hard work they've chosen to do. I
642 have two stories to tell you. Both stories start the same way. Both officers saw something suspicious, and had the
643 courage and their conviction to take action on their duty. Both stopped the vehicle. Both put themselves in danger in
644 the middle the night. Both approached the cars with their hands on the top of their gun, and they make contact with
645 the driver and attempted to resolve the situation. The driver of both cars were so moved that they reported their
646 experience with the police department. This is where the story diverges. After, after hearing the driver's explanation,
647 the first officer removed his hand from the gun, and continued to resolve the situation. After the second story, the
648 officer with his hand still on his gun after my explanation began to throw accusations from marijuana, everything
649 else that he had. When my wife came out of the house, the officer yelled at her several times to get back in the
650 house. Incidentally, his hand was still on the gun. After the office consulted with a second officer, he handed me a
651 ticket for going through a stop sign at the intersection of Lakeside and 14th Street [sic.] I was actually on Hollywood.
652 The first situation resulted in the officer of the year award. The second after review of the officers cam[era], I was
653 told that the chief, by the chief that there would be corrective action, and retraining of the officer for his abuse of
654 power and poor judgment that he demonstrated. Why do I share these stories? On January 23rd this year, the town
655 board [sic] had a situation that needed resolution. For the record, I'm not a supporter of the past town administrator,
656 but I am an advocate for following your convictions legally and not by abuse of power. Just as in the two stories I
657 shared, there must be transparency and accountability for all people who serve publicly. I remind the voters that
658 Surfside Beach that it took three additional meetings to overdo the legal action that was enacted on January 23rd. I
659 request that this town board [sic] demonstrate the professionalism and transparency that the police department has
660 demonstrated by reporting to the public the results and cost of your actions in dismissing the town administrator and
661 agreeing to pay her the full contract. It was very disappointing that not even one board [sic] member requested this
662 information although the public has asked for it several times from the finance director at the last meeting. I
663 respectfully request that the author of this motion be held accountable and report to the public the cost of the actions.
664 The only comment he has offered to date has been that he told that his action would be [sic] cost him 100 votes at
665 the next election, and he didn't care. He voted for it anyway and put it on (**). He chose to demonstrate an abuse of
666 power and a blatant disregard for the public's interest in mind. It is the public's turn to hold this board [sic] member
667 accountable. Let me share a little insight. Please correct me if I'm wrong, because I'm making up these figures from
668 what I've gathered from people here. If her salary was \$40,000 year with the average benefit package between 18
669 and 25 to 23%, let's say 25%, her compensation is \$60,000. That's \$5,000 per month. My estimate that that adds up
670 to five months plus at another two weeks for the accrued vacation and holidays. So, for a total of 5.5 months. We
671 paying \$27,500 to this person for no services. If the average tax bill was \$400 in this town that means 68 of the
672 taxpayers' money went to pay this bill. So in his own admission, the author of this action dissed about 168 residents

673 from this community; he didn't care if they voted for him, and they didn't care where their money went. I would
674 guess that this figure would be doubled, with the dismissal of the deputy administrator that would bring it up to
675 \$55,000 or 136 residents who paid, whose money went to pay for this abuse of power. In total that means 236 voters
676 were dissed by this impulsive, irresponsible motion. I trust the author will be accountable, not out of anger, anger, or
677 political gain or in support of the terminated town administrator, because it is the right thing to do. The town board
678 [sic] needs to understand they will be held accountable, and that we will not accept or condone any abuse of power
679 in public office, the ends should never justify the means. The board [sic] owes us an accounting of the cost (*time*
680 *ended*) that are accruing because of this action. Thank you.

681
682 Mr. Boyd Sadler, 8th Avenue South: Wow, I want to wait for this show to come out on TV, it's going to be
683 a whole series. I just want to see this series when it comes out, because what all you've heard today is 'wow.' White
684 lies, we've heard drugs in town, and we know it's here. Speeding, traffic control, and all of it is important. I mean
685 goodness. It's our town. We all want the best for it. I'm annoyed when motorcycles come racing through town, and
686 they do. Coming up our street on 8th Avenue South, a lot of times cars, cars, motorcycles will hit Willow Drive
687 going out towards [Highway] 17 and you don't hear 'em get off the gas, and there's kids up there. It scares me. You
688 gotta work together on a volume of problems; curing them, and not removing stop signs. I think we really need stop
689 signs. I think we traffic control. I spent a lot of time behind the wheel in the DC area. We're lucky, but we still need
690 traffic control. The drugs, so many more people around here have more experience than I do around people that have
691 been having issues with them, but we know it's a reoccurring problem. We've all had problems within our families
692 of people who've had drug issues, or most of us have. Some of us have been gilded a little bit, and haven't had the
693 issues or paid attention to it. It is important that we do pay attention to it. We've got too many children in town.
694 They can be influenced. They can be harmed, innocent people, our neighbors. I have a lot of faith in what you guys
695 are doing right now communicating, and I think once the evidence comes out as to whatever you're digging for each
696 issue, by golly, we want to hear it, too. Believe or not, we do support you guys, and you actually make us proud a lot
697 of the time; most of the time. Sometimes in news media does play a little bit in there to confuse things, but public
698 opinion, you know, we're all in the court of public opinion, and I'm gonna shut up and get out of here before I wind
699 up in [Chief] Hofmann's place there (*laughter*).

700
701 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
702

703 Mr. Ott: As always, thanks, I thank everybody for their comments. They're very important to us. Good
704 ones, bad ones, we learn from them all. We had our BBQ Festival, which was a great affair. I walked around with
705 my puppy dog and I got to see everybody, and one of the things that I noticed was I would say almost everybody
706 had a smile on their face, which is a really nice thing to see. Nobody was walking around with a frown, and they all
707 had a smile, and it was just a natural smile. It was just really nice to see having people like that all enjoying what
708 they were doing. Enjoying their day. As for the totes, people are learning to bring their totes into the stores, and I'm
709 guilty of it. I walked in and had to go back out to the car and get the totes. Collins Engineers is going to do it.
710 They're a team that we hired and they specialize in here pier building. They're not building the buildings that we're
711 going to put on top. They're gonna design and finish the design of the actual pier itself. The pilings and everything
712 like that, and that's the next level. It has nothing to do with the buildings. We're gonna have to get other contractors
713 and engineers to do it. The most important thing is to build that pier right, and Collins is the best that we know of.
714 They're the best in the area. They built most of the piers that you see down in Charleston. We have them and that's a
715 really good thing for us. So, it was a good meeting. We heard a lot of things and I want, I also would like to hear the
716 truth. Nothing; there's a lot of history in this town, and maybe it's not always what we want to hear, but it's there
717 and, and we've seen things in the past, but by golly, this is a great place to live. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else,
718 and I thank you for the opportunity to sit in this chair and make decisions that are going to bring us into the future,
719 because I'm not going anywhere. You're not getting rid of me. I'm here. Thank you very much for coming. Good
720 night.

721
722 Mr. Stevens: If I recall very well, early January we were talking about possibly going to a wood pier,
723 which we've lost three of those since 1954 in Hurricane Hazel, and we waited. We were patient, and lo and behold,
724 FEMA comes up with almost \$10 million for us. I've always been a proponent of a concrete pier. The State of
725 Florida hasn't built a wood pier since 1983. They're going all to concrete. So we're gonna have a pier that will be a
726 destination for this town. There's not a person in here that won't be able to enjoy that unless something happens, you
727 pass away or something, but hopefully, you'll all be here, and hopefully, I'll be here. This is something for our
728 children, our grandchildren, and all that. I think about all the Highway 17. It's gonna be repaved. We're gonna have

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729 a brand new highway out there. A few years ago, we were gonna spend \$780,000 [sic]. The taxpayers that are here
730 in town; we got the money back, and now the state's paying for it on their nickel. Isn't that good? I think the people
731 who, by the way, we were a gang of four, just to let you know, we voted to get the \$760,000 [sic] back. We lost
732 \$20,000, but we got it back, and now the state is paving from Melody Lane to 544. Sometimes a gang of four makes
733 smart decisions. That's all I can say about that. Now, other things we've gotta look at here is we have a town media
734 release. This police department made us the third safest town in all of South Carolina. We have a fire department
735 that is an ISO1, and we have a fellow right over there (indicated Mr. Adair) that if you've got; your garbage needs
736 picked up, he picks up. We solved a problem along the boulevard a couple of years ago with the help of [County
737 Councilmember District 5] Tyler Servant. I will say that. [Mr. Servant] was a great, and I want to thank [Mayor]
738 Childs, he was with me. We worked together on that and we solved the trash problem in 30 days. You know, if you
739 want to get things done, you can get it done. I didn't vote for the mayor's raise. There was a gang of four that voted
740 against me, by the way. Just, just, I'm just cutting up with you, but anyway, this is a great town, and this is what you
741 have to look at. It's a democracy. I think [Mr.] Boyd Sadler said it one time, some votes are gonna go one way, other
742 votes are gonna go the other way. Some of the people didn't like when we got, we relieved the administrator of her
743 duties. I didn't like when she withheld a lawsuit from me for 7½ months. She should've told the whole council, but
744 she withheld that lawsuit from us for 7½ months, and that's a bad thing to do. The administrator's duty is to keep us
745 fully informed. We're just up here trying to work the best we can, and like I say, if you don't think we're doing a
746 good job, then you should run. If you think you can do a better job, run for council. That's one of things you have the
747 right to do. I think, Mr. Johnson, he has a wealth of knowledge on insurance, so if I need to ask about insurance,
748 great. Mr. Pellegrino is an engineer, former engineer. He has information. Mr. Courtney knows all about the police
749 department, because he's a former police department [sic.] Public Safety, Mayor Childs worked in Washington. I
750 don't know what he actually did up there, but he worked in Washington, DC, but he knows a lot about government.
751 Mayor Childs: It's a secret. (Laughter.) Mr. Stevens: Mr. Ott, he's got a lot of information. I worked at the
752 Statehouse in Columbia. I learned a lot about government. Ms. Samples worked for, I think, the Department of the
753 Navy. So she has knowledge. Everybody up here has some knowledge. Mr. Duckett came with flying
754 recommendations from the City of Walterboro. Every councilmember in Walterboro said, 'Why did y'all ever let
755 him get out of your town? He's great.' Now, I'm glad he's here as our interim director [sic]. We also have a great
756 police chief. We have a great fire chief. Ms. Diana King knows all about finance. Sometimes I don't understand, but
757 if I don't understand it, she can explain it. This is a great town to live in, and we got a lot of great people, and I want
758 you when you go home this week, think about all the great time that you had at the Family Fest, excuse me, the
759 BBQ Festival. There were 7 to 10,000 people there. Our public events; our event lady, [Ms.] Debbie Ellis does a
760 great job, and I was really impressed at what she did. Best one we've ever had. So thank all y'all for coming out. If
761 you have something that is bothering you, get on the email or on the telephone and call us. We're here to serve you.
762 There's not a person on this council right now [that doesn't], I don't believe, have his heart in this town. Everybody
763 up here has his heart in this town. Thank you and have a good weekend or good week.

765 Ms. Samples: Really appreciate Mr. Sadler and Ms. Mabry and Mr. Canfora for putting your names
766 forward for serving on the planning commission. Thank you very much Mr. Delaplane. Thank you for your insights
767 on the pier. We appreciate it. Hope everyone has a great evening.

768
769 Mr. Pellegrino: Thanks for coming tonight, and I like to thank Ms. Ellis and the staff for the BBQ Festival.
770 Another great event, and that seems like every year the festival has great weather, so certainly that helped. Glad to
771 hear what Mr. Stevens talked about; third safest city in South Carolina. Thank you very much to the police
772 department. Very professional, obviously, we're very safe. But as we talked about, we have issues that need to be
773 dealt with, and I have full confidence in our police department to investigate that and follow up on that. As far as the
774 fire department, also, I had someone I'm very close to who needed an ambulance, and the fire truck was there in less
775 than a minute. You know, that's a very, very fast response time. So you should certainly be happy about that. I'd
776 like to thank [Mr.] Adair for his work on setting up this pier meeting for May 23rd. He's put a lot of work into this
777 since the administrator has left to get all that in line, and worked with Hagerty, our consultant, and the engineering
778 firm to get all that set up, so thank you, and please attend that meeting. It's at 2 o'clock on [March] 23rd here. As far
779 as the pier, obviously, the pier itself, Collins Engineers is moving through that process. That's pretty well
780 established, but we have the question about the buildings. I was talking to the administrator before the meeting that
781 we need to understand the cost of the buildings, and the revenues we're gonna get from the buildings, so we can
782 make decisions based on paybacks. We'll have to make decisions on one building, two buildings, three buildings,
783 one story, two story, but that needs to be based on payback. So, we'll need to; Mr. Delaplane explained that we
784 should get, obviously, experts to help us with that and we will get development engineers, obviously, involved with

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785 that process so we can make the right decision. Please come to that meeting so everyone can see we're at and we can
786 get the public's input and move forward from there. Thank you very much for coming. Have a great night.
787

788 Mr. Courtney: Yes, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out. Again, for the young lady, you know, look,
789 stop signs aren't going to stop everybody. They are going to be people that violate the law. You could put a stop
790 sign, you could put a red light, they're gonna run red lights; they're gonna run stop signs. People are gonna drink
791 and drive, and there's gonna be drugs, but it's about curbing it and trying to trying to control it, yield in South
792 Carolina law, you're supposed to yield to a pedestrian, and that doesn't happen a lot of times, and for the elderly
793 people it's hard to cross over our roads. We see on Ocean Boulevard. They don't yield the right-of-way, but it is
794 state law. We need them; we need these kind of traffic calming devices. We do need 'em in town. The population
795 has grown here. We're almost built out. Back in the day we probably didn't need any stop signs down there, because
796 it was all woods. When I bought my house, it was all woods next to me. Now, there's not one tree left, but that's
797 another subject. As far as the police, yeah, you know, I've been harping on this for two years. We have to retain our
798 police officers, because to lose 'em, it's costing us more money, and we see the money. We see them come. They
799 come for two years and then they do a lateral transfer to a different department, because more benefits or pay or take
800 home car. I know [Chief Hofmann] has been working diligently on this, and I know he's been doing a good job. He
801 also has reduced the traffic accidents by 50% by working together with me and we been working hard on that. So
802 he's been doing a great job. On a positive note, well, what are you gonna say, you start at the fire department. You
803 know, you want to know what you get from the county. The one thing that we do get that you don't see is that you
804 get ALS, advanced life support, in your home, right there in the fire house, and you nothing to get that from
805 everywhere else. You call for an ambulance, you're gonna have advanced life support at your house within a minute.
806 And that's priceless. And that's for our tourists, our visitors, and for your family. So it's imperative that we do work
807 with county and trust the county. Going as far as the festival, the BBQ Festival, I want to thank [Ms.] Ellis, [Ms.]
808 King, and the rest of staff, [Mr.] Adair, Chief Hofmann, and all of staff. I especially want to thank the [Keep
809 Surfside Beach Beautiful] Committee. Man, what an outstanding job you guys did. I mean I was just floored. The
810 amount of work that was put in from the Keeping Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee with the kids and the rocks,
811 it was a huge success. This is not a place for rehab houses. I'm sorry, they do relapse and they do go back into crime
812 and they do go back into drugs, unfortunately. I wish, I wish I was wrong on that. We've got to care of our kids, and
813 you know, I want you to think when you leave here, and when you're in council chambers, my child is in here, so
814 please refrain from using bad language. There are children in this audience. My 11-year-old is sitting right over
815 there behind, so I'd appreciate you not using foul language when you leave here or when you're in here. I also ask
816 that you be civil. You know what, what goes on here in council chambers, and what goes on here, we have our
817 differences of opinions. I like everyone on this council. I get along with them. I get along with the mayor, and I get
818 along; we have different opinions, but and you might have different opinions, but when you leave here you've got to
819 be civil, okay. We're a family. We're the Family Beach. Please, you know. I hear about how this is a retirement
820 home. It's not, okay? We have a lot of young families here, and how you can tell? Go onto SSB Rocks, because kids
821 rock, and a lot of them here. Thank you. God bless you. Have a great night.
822

823 Mr. Johnson: I had a lot to say until somebody up here started talking about people dying. *(Laughter.)*
824 Seriously, I appreciate each and every one of you people that take the time out to council meetings. I certainly
825 appreciate all the councilmembers, our staff, and I appreciate all of the people that threw their hats and fedoras in the
826 ring to run for election and/or reelection. We have a great town, and first and foremost would like to welcome back
827 Mr. Duckett. He had a brief stay somewhere out of town hall. But, welcome back. It's good to see you again. I know
828 you'll continue to do a good job. Thank you. God bless you, and good night.
829

830 Mayor Childs: I want to thank everybody for coming out, and Mr. Stevens so eloquently said everything,
831 and I'm just gonna echo what Mr. Stevens said, so you don't have to sit here and listen to me praise what a great
832 staff we have, and thank Mr. Duckett.
833

834
835
836 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All
837 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
838

839 Prepared and submitted by:
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Approved: March 27, 2018

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Surfside Beach Town Council

VOTE:	Yes	No
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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

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