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**ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
June 19, 2008 @ 4:30 p.m.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Harrison called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Vice Chairman Harrison and committee members Dunn, Mathers and Loftus were present. Chairman Servant and Committee member Arakas were absent. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell and Finance Treasurer, Hursey.

2. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Loftus moved to approve the May 29, 2008 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Dunn seconded. **All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **FUNDING REQUEST-Town of Surfside request for funding for the purchase of the Surfside Beach Pier**

Mr. Harrison stated that this request is to use the Accommodations tax fund that the town has been accruing and was originally earmarked for the beach renourishment. Mr. Booth stated that the State has requested that the town request these funds as a non-profit organization. Mr. Booth submitted a request form along with a report and photos of the pier property that will also be presented to the State Committee when they make the request for use of these funds from them. Mr. Booth stated that the report illustrates why the town desires to purchase the pier; it states that tourism could be increased and it also shows that there are two businesses associated with the pier that generate approximately \$200,000 per year. There is also an area that can be utilized as an information center. The front of the building and parking lot area could be enhanced. Mr. Booth reported that, once it is purchased, it would be an enterprise fund with no direct taxpayer money going into it. It was determined that the \$200,000 figure mentioned included the leases and the money generated from tourists paying to go onto the pier. Mr. Booth stated that it would also generate approximately an additional amount of \$24,000 from income from the parking meters. Mr. Harrison stated that there are currently two spaces leased on the pier, one being a restaurant and the other being a tackle shop that collects admissions to the pier and asked if the town would still lease those spaces out and continue a similar operation. Mr. Booth stated that the owner, Mr. Scalise, currently holds the pier admission income that comes from tourists and fishing and the town is looking to use the vacant ice cream parlor area as an information center. It was determined that the town would continue to lease out the space and the lessee would operate the pier. Mr. Harrison asked if the negotiations have been completed and Mr. Booth answered that it has and the price agreed upon was \$2,500,000 and it was appraised for \$2,550,000. Mr. Loftus stated that there had been concerns regarding the State allowing the town to use the Accommodations Tax money towards the purchase of the pier; money that was originally earmarked for the beach. Mr. Loftus reported that there was a State Tourism meeting that past Monday and there were three concerns brought up; one was changing the earmark which he thought should not be an issue since the money is no longer needed for the beach renourishment; the other was that the town was using the money to purchase a commercial

48 venture and he does not see a problem there either since A-Tax money in Myrtle Beach was
49 used towards a Sheraton Hotel and the third was the question, does it bring in new tourists
50 and although it may not bring in new tourists, the absence of the pier may cause a loss of
51 tourists. Mr. Loftus asked Mayor Deaton to call the State and they suggested that the town
52 draw up a resolution; this was done and would be presented at the next council meeting. Mr.
53 Loftus then made a motion to approve the request for funding. Mr. Mathers seconded the
54 motion. Mr. Harrison thanked Mr. Loftus for looking into this and making those inquiries to
55 the State Board. It was confirmed that once the town Accommodations Tax Committee
56 approves this it then goes to the Town Council for their approval. Mr. Booth stated that this
57 is correct and that it then goes before the State Agency for their approval adding that the
58 town is following the proper procedures. It was confirmed that the funds that were originally
59 earmarked by the town for beach renourishment were not used since the State and County
60 paid for the renourishment, this left these funds available and unused. Mr. Booth
61 recommended that the town continue to put funds aside for future beach renourishment. **All**
62 **present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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64 **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

65 There were no public comments.

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67 **5. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

68 There were no committee comments.

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70 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

71 Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

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Approved: _____

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin boards outside council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.