



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

September 23, 2008 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and added that this is a business meeting and asked everyone in attendance to conduct themselves in that manner. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell; Public Works Director, Taylor; Grounds Supervisor, Newell; Finance Treasurer, Hursey and Director of Public Safety, Christenson.

2. **INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Pastor Robert Hayes, South Strand Assembly of God said the invocation and Mayor Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Booth stated that he would like to address Item 8F. He would request that this item be removed from the agenda until the town could have it legally reviewed adding that the Safety Policy is required and is one of the checklist items on our audit and it is also promoted by the town's insurance policy. Mr. Samples made a motion to defer item 8F, the Safety Policy, until there has been adequate legal review and a workshop on the matter to discuss the town's safety program. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from September 9, 2008. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson asked for two corrections, one on line 81 and another on line 358. **All voted in favor of approval with the noted changes. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only**

There were no public comments.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. ***Finance Report Update***

Mr. Booth reported that the town closed on the pier today. Mr. Booth stated that he had given copies of memos distributed to staff regarding the limiting of overtime. Only mandatory training will be allowed. Mr. Booth stated that the reason for these cuts is that the town is not getting the revenues in that it was budgeted for. Mr. Booth stated that he anticipates the economy to continue to go down; he is not seeing as many rentals come in as last year. Mr. Booth introduced Bob Harper from the town's current accounting firm, Harper, Poston & Moree, PA.

B. ***Auditors Report***

Mr. Harper introduced himself and one of his partners, Ms. Stacey Moree. Mr. Harper stated that his firm had prepared the town's annual comprehensive annual financial report and added that the report was prepared in accordance with the governmental standards and that the audit report is passed up through the federal government. Mr. Harper stated that an executive summary was provided to council

53 to briefly highlight the town's finances for the last year. Mr. Harper stated that the  
54 audit was prepared in accordance with governmental auditing standards and these  
55 standards meet the GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) statement  
56 number 34 and that this is the format that the report was prepared by. Mr. Harper  
57 then went over the summary of the items presented in the financial statement which  
58 is on file. Mr. Harper stated that the supplemental information would give a  
59 councilmember an idea of what the adjusted budget was compared to what the town  
60 actually did. This would allow council to see where the town has gone and then  
61 determine where it may need to go in the future. Mr. Harper stated that the auditor's  
62 report was unqualified which means there were not qualifications, which is the best  
63 case scenario the town could have. The report also states that there is one control  
64 deficiency or finding which is that the town's accounting staff does not prepare the  
65 annual financial statements and related note disclosures and added that governmental  
66 auditing now would like to see the entities do more of their own work. Mr. Harper  
67 went on to explain that he has a Masters of Accounting and has a certificate in  
68 Governmental Auditing and has 30 years of experience and he prepared the financial  
69 document and added that it takes a relatively qualified person to generate this type of  
70 document so it may not always be feasible for an entity to have the qualified staff to  
71 prepare such a document. The town would need to weigh the value in having  
72 someone on staff that is able to accomplish this task. Mr. Harper stated that he  
73 realized that council had limited time to review the documents and told council that  
74 he and his staff would be available to answer any questions they had either now or  
75 once they had more time to review the documents.

76  
77 Mr. Martin stated that he feels that the town staff does an excellent job and this  
78 financial reflects this. Mr. Martin added that the words "very secure" were used in  
79 terms of the funds that the town has responsibility for and wanted to make it clear to  
80 the residents that the town does not "mess around with your money" reiterating that  
81 these funds are very secure. Mr. Martin added that the net assets of the town had  
82 increased by more than a million dollars over the last year.

83  
84 Mr. Samples asked for confirmation that the requirement Mr. Harper referred to in  
85 the findings was a recent requirement. Mr. Harper confirmed that it was a relatively  
86 recent requirement. Mr. Samples stated that these requirements more than likely  
87 pertain to larger entities adding that many smaller entities would more than likely not  
88 have such qualified personnel on staff to prepare these documents.

89  
90 Mr. Harper thanked the town and staff for being helpful during the audit. Mayor  
91 Deaton commented that it was always a pleasure to get good news.

92  
93 **C. *Public Works Report***

94 Mr. Booth introduced Brian Newell, the new Grounds Supervisor adding that he is  
95 currently working directly with the Beautification Committee. He is also certified  
96 for spraying and he and Mr. Taylor will be taking this over and it will no longer be  
97 contracted out.

98  
99 Mr. Booth stated that they attended a preconstruction meeting for the final phases of  
100 the underground wiring project adding that there were a few glitches but it is  
101 underway and residents should see the poles come down within the next 2 to 3

102 months. The electrician will start wiring up the houses and residents should lose  
103 power for no more than 30 minutes. Mr. Martin asked when the new street lights  
104 would go in. Mr. Booth stated that this would be in a couple of months. Mr. Booth  
105 added that he will be looking to put the same lights out on the pier. Mr. Truett asked  
106 if the sidewalk on 14<sup>th</sup> was being coordinated to come after the underground wiring  
107 project was complete. Mr. Booth stated that this has not been coordinated at this  
108 time but he will come back to council once the project gets closer towards the end to  
109 present this. Mr. Booth reported that dredging is going well. Cherry Lake and  
110 Magnolia have been completed. Mr. Booth showed photos of Myrtle Lake stating  
111 that it is the first lake that goes out to the ocean and it is the most polluted lake; there  
112 are 40 to 50 birds contributing to the pollution. Mr. Booth stated that the entities  
113 DHEC, Waccamaw Consortium and the Department of Natural Resources were in  
114 town for the Stormwater Committee meeting and they were looking at the lakes and  
115 were very impressed and they plan on using the town as a model program. It was  
116 confirmed that the lake depth would all be 6 feet. Mr. Booth stated that they found  
117 that Cherry Lake had never been at 6 feet because coquina was found at 4 feet so  
118 they dug the lake deeper. Mr. Booth stated that many of the artesian wells/ground  
119 water was not coming up because it was filled in and once they dug further the  
120 ground water started to come in. It was suggested by the visiting group to place  
121 grass carp in the lakes since they eat algae. Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to  
122 review the pros and cons before placing carp in the lakes. Mr. Booth stated that he is  
123 just reporting what was recommended and they would look into this further.  
124

125 Mr. Booth reported that he plans on constructing a mini park and moving the gazebo  
126 that is currently located at town hall over on Magnolia Lake. Mr. Booth added that a  
127 fountain would be placed in the lake as well. It was confirmed that fountains would  
128 be placed in all the dredged lakes. Mr. Samples stated that the Stormwater  
129 Committee is doing a terrific job and continued to fill Mr. Booth in on the rest of the  
130 meeting they held since Mr. Booth had to leave to prepare for the council meeting;  
131 instead of rushing in and installing a fountain as they had done in the past they are  
132 reviewing the variation of a regular fountain and bubblers to circulate the water and  
133 create a positive impact on the water quality; this would circulate the water off the  
134 bottom. Mr. Booth agreed this was a good plan adding that the quality of the water  
135 is the priority but he would also like to see some aesthetics added as well and added  
136 that it could be done without spending a lot of money. Mr. Booth showed some  
137 additional photos of the gazebo and fountains. Mr. Booth reported that Ocean Blvd.  
138 is in the process of being paved; it will be done in one pour for 2.1 miles. They will  
139 also do the crossovers and the lines down the road.  
140

#### 141 ***D. Recreation Report***

142 Mr. Booth reported on the success of the Beach Sweep. Many cigarette butts were  
143 picked up during the beach cleanup. The beach is now being cleaned up at least once  
144 a week and the swashes are being cleaned every day. Mr. Childs stated that he  
145 believes that, thanks to Mr. Taylor and his crew, the beach is cleaner than it has been  
146 in years past and added that the beach rakes are also doing a great job. Mr. Booth  
147 reported on the Skyhoundz Disc Contest held in Martin Park with 17 dogs entered.  
148 Mr. Booth reported that opening day for football will be at 10 o'clock (9/27/08) at  
149 Huckabee Complex. Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> is the Family Festival with Sun Cruz and  
150 True Soul. There are approximately 100 vendors that will be there. Mr. Booth

151 reported that the previous owner has requested to have a “Change of Ownership  
152 Celebration” with possibly some fireworks.

153

154 ***E. Administrator’s Report***

155 Mr. Booth reported that he is cutting back on expenses for the town and it will be  
156 presented at the next council meeting.

157

158 **6. DISCUSSION**

159 ***Request for Dispensation: Jamie Keats from Jammin’ Leather***

160 Mr. Keats stated that between the current economic state and the smoking ban issues in  
161 town it has been difficult to find a renter for his restaurant space. Mr. Keats introduced  
162 Pete Bine who has been working with him in trying to get the space rented. Mr. Keats  
163 stated that the smoking ban was put into effect after he had made the agreement with the  
164 town for the fee compensation. Mr. Keats stated that the full intention for the space is  
165 for it to be a full service restaurant and that intention has not changed. Mr. Keats then  
166 asked for re-consideration on the fee agreement. Mr. Samples made a motion to suspend  
167 the rules to open the floor for discussion. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in**  
168 **favor.** Mr. Samples asked Mr. Keats how much he has paid to the town since opening  
169 up. Mr. Keats stated that the CO (Certificate of Occupancy) was issued the first week in  
170 June 2007. It was determined that the amount would be approximately \$15,000 paid out  
171 so far. Mr. Keats had a few conversations with the town administrator regarding this  
172 matter. Mr. Samples asked if any alternatives were discussed. Mr. Booth stated that  
173 council had made the agreement with Mr. Keats and council would need to review it.  
174 Mr. Samples asked for options. Mr. Keats stated that he was requesting that council  
175 suspend the fees. Mr. Keats stated that he relies primarily on mail order and even  
176 though his retail business has increased due to the new location it does not make up for  
177 the mail order and added that business has declined from last year. Mr. Samples brought  
178 up impact fees. It was determined that the impact fees have not been paid since there  
179 has not been a CO issued for the space. Mr. Samples stated that this may be part of the  
180 trouble; many restaurants may not want to pay these fees up front. Mr. Bine explained  
181 that normally the impact fee is charged to the first user of a particular space in a new  
182 building. Once the user has signed a contract and has submitted plans for upfitting of  
183 that space, as a building permit, it is then assessed based on the square footage of the  
184 restaurant itself. In some places the assessment is only on the seating area so it is  
185 impossible to determine what the appropriate fees would be until a layout plan was  
186 submitted. Once the fee is paid subsequent tenants would not have to pay this fee.

187

188 Mr. Truett stated that during the time this was being negotiated there was a 120 day  
189 grace period and the \$50 per day was to be a motivating factor to get a restaurant in as  
190 soon as possible. Mr. Truett stated that the permits were issued based on a restaurant  
191 being put in for hospitality fees. Mr. Truett told Mr. Keats that he believes that he has  
192 been just as motivated as anyone to get a tenant in to increase traffic flow at his location.  
193 Mr. Truett stated that because of the economy and circumstances he feels that he would  
194 like to see the \$50 fine removed and he would also welcome any type of retail business  
195 in that location; anything that is generated in that location would be good for him and the  
196 town. Mr. Johnson stated that he had sat out in the audience while this negotiation was  
197 going on with council. The council and Mr. Keats agreed to the \$50 fine and it was  
198 based on the fact that a restaurant would be put in place. If the \$50 fine is removed he  
199 sees no incentive for Mr. Keats to get a restaurant type business in there and he feels that

200 it would be the best use of that property because of the taxes that would come into the  
201 town. Mr. Johnson added that he feels that council should look out for the town; both  
202 parties agreed and unless something else is worked out he would like to keep the fine in  
203 place. Mayor Deaton stated that there is some more history here and went on to explain  
204 that a previous council had released public property for free to the proprietors adjacent to  
205 Mr. Keats. Mayor Deaton had recommended the town get an appraisal; the appraisal  
206 came in at \$275,000 for property that was going to be given away. Another appraisal  
207 was done on behalf of the proprietor for \$75,000. Mayor Deaton stated that this did not  
208 sit well with most of the council members at the time but the proposal was for a hotel, it  
209 was presented numerous times while he was on council 2000 to 2004. Mayor Deaton  
210 asked the question at the time if they had spoken to any hoteliers and they were informed  
211 that they had not but he assured council that he could put a hotel there. The premise  
212 was that the town was going to generate from that public property transfer of \$75,000  
213 hospitality fees and accommodations tax money. Mayor Deaton stated that he left  
214 council in 2004 and does not know what happened to the accommodations tax rider on  
215 the property that Mr. Keats is currently a proprietor of. Mayor Deaton stated that  
216 council was very concerned that public property was being transferred to a private  
217 individual or entity for sale and the town would not benefit from the property. Mayor  
218 Deaton stated that apparently the accommodation tax tag got lifted and what remains is  
219 the hospitality tag. This is not a fine it is a payment; a hospitality fee substitute in lieu of  
220 hospitality fees the town should be generating according to the original agreement.  
221 Mayor Deaton stated that he understands Mr. Keats' problems and he understand the  
222 state of the economy but there is history here and council, as the stewards of the  
223 taxpayers money, handed over a valuable piece of property for a "song and a dance" in  
224 hopes that there would be a return on that property. The only return the town has seen is  
225 what Mr. Keats is paying in lieu of hospitality fees. Mr. Samples added that Mr. Keats  
226 does pay a business license fee and agreed that there is a lot of history attached to this.  
227 Mr. Samples stated that what council did after the Mayor left council was that they took  
228 one word off an agreement and the word was "primary". Mr. Samples admitted that he  
229 did not fully understand, at that time, the implication of that change but nonetheless  
230 council is where they are today. Mr. Samples stated that he believes that if Mr. Keats  
231 could get a tenant in there he would have. Mr. Samples added that he feels that the  
232 economy will be different in the next year than in years past. Mr. Samples made a  
233 motion to go back under the rules. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All in favor. Mr.**  
234 **Samples made a motion to direct the administrator to meet with Mr. Keats and develop**  
235 **some alternatives that could be considered by council.** Mr. Truett seconded the motion.  
236 Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to add a time frame to this motion. Ms. Blair  
237 asked Mr. Samples if during the time they worked on alternative options would this be  
238 with suspension of the fee. Mr. Samples stated that it would not. Mr. Johnson made an  
239 amendment to add 60 days. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Truett questioned  
240 why a time line was needed if the fine was still in place. Mr. Johnson withdrew his  
241 amendment and Mr. Martin withdrew his second. **All voted in favor to the original**  
242 **motion.**

## 7. BUSINESS

### A. *First Reading Ordinance #08-0644 Animal Ordinance*

245 Mr. Booth stated this ordinance clarifies and replaces previous ordinances. One of  
246 the current ordinances requires individuals to feed the birds and another stormwater  
247

248 ordinance requires the town to keep the pollutants down and the town's main  
249 pollutant is the waste from birds and animals; they are conflicting. Mr. Booth stated  
250 that the wild birds should not be fed bread. Mr. Booth stated that there also needed  
251 to be more clarification on the definition of a bird. Mr. Booth stated that the town  
252 recently had a problem with wild chickens in town and the new ordinance would  
253 alleviate this problem as well. Mr. Booth stated that the ordinance also requires  
254 individuals to register their dogs adding that it is not just a generator for income but  
255 it would be in place for safety reasons. There would be a registration fee of \$10.  
256 Mr. Samples made a motion to take the draft of this ordinance and the next ordinance  
257 listed to a workshop to discuss it further. Mr. Truett stated that he would like to add  
258 that since Mr. Booth had mentioned that he planned on bringing two ordinances back  
259 per meeting, he would like to see workshops on all the ordinances. Mayor Deaton  
260 added that he would like to see more than one ordinance per workshop; he would  
261 like to see enough ordinances brought into a workshop to make better use of their  
262 time. There was some additional discussion regarding workshops. Mayor Deaton  
263 suggested having one council meeting and one workshop per month; this could be on  
264 a trial basis. Mr. Samples stated that he would like to add a discussion on the safety  
265 policy program to the workshop as well. There was some additional discussion  
266 regarding the need for a workshop. Mayor Deaton stated that there seems to be a  
267 consensus of council on the need for a workshop. **All voted in favor of a**  
268 **workshop.**  
269

270 B. *First Reading Ordinance #08-0645 Littering Ordinance*

271 Council had voted to bring this ordinance to a workshop meeting.

272 C. *Issue Paper: Appointment to Underground Wiring Committee*

273 Mr. Booth explained that the Underground Wiring Committee is made up of  
274 members on council. This committee meets to determine where the next  
275 underground wiring projects should be. Mr. Booth added that the 14<sup>th</sup> Street project  
276 is at a point where the committee would need to decide on where to go next. Mr.  
277 Booth stated that \$900,000 is currently being held by Santee Cooper and the town  
278 could go another \$900,000 out to do a major project. Mr. Childs made a motion to  
279 nominate Mr. Samples to fill that seat. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. All voted in  
280 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**  
281

282 Mr. Martin stated that the previous committee and the previous council approved the  
283 next project which is Seaside Drive. Mr. Martin added that this should be in the  
284 engineering phase at this point and it is not. There was additional discussion and Mr.  
285 Booth stated that he just wanted better clarification. Mr. Booth added that he has  
286 received other input and would need the committee to direct him. Mr. Martin stated  
287 that it was a council direction and decision and questioned whether everything the  
288 previous council decided would be brought back. Mayor Deaton suggested that this  
289 discussion be moved to the Underground Wiring Committee.

290 D. *Issue Paper: Increase Employee Comp Time from 24 hours to 80 hours*

291 Mr. Booth stated that the town's employee manual currently shows 24 hours comp  
292 time as the maximum that can be accumulated but because of the way the police

293 department works with 12 hour shifts, this really does not give employees enough  
294 time to accumulate before having to take time off. Overtime has been cut down so  
295 employees need to be able to accumulate a little more time and then be able to take it  
296 when it is more advantageous to the organization. Mr. Samples made a motion to  
297 suspend the rules to ask some questions. Mayor Deaton stated that since this is an  
298 employee issue it would probably be more appropriate for Mr. Samples to discuss  
299 this in a meeting with Mr. Booth. Mr. Samples withdrew his motion. There was no  
300 motion and this topic was closed.

301 E. ***Issue Paper: Add Myrtle Lake to dredging project***

302 Mr. Booth reported that he would like to add Myrtle Lake to the dredging project and  
303 the vote was unanimous from the Stormwater Committee to do so. The rate is the  
304 same cubic yard rate that is being charged for the other lakes with a rate coming in at  
305 \$198,000; the money is in the budget to add this lake. Mr. Samples made a motion  
306 to add Myrtle Lake. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Samples stated that  
307 DHEC reported at the Stormwater meeting that it was the worst pond. Mr. Booth  
308 stated that it is. Mr. Samples agreed that the town should be working on the worst  
309 pond to get the bacteria levels down since this is the pond that drains into the ocean.  
310 Mr. Booth agreed. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

311 F. ***Resolution: Adopt 2008-2009 Safety Policy***

312 This item was removed from the agenda.

313 G. ***Proclamation: October 2008 Colonial Heritage Month***

314 Ms. Pinnell read the proclamation that is on file.

315  
316 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

317 *Shelby Smith, 911 Cedar Drive North.* Mr. Smith passed out information to council: "I  
318 was at the Stormwater Committee meeting today and some of this was discussed. I live  
319 on Dogwood Lake and that lake needs help in fixing, now. Enclosed are a couple of  
320 pages of pictures. The first page you see Dogwood Lake on the top with everything  
321 imaginable on top of that lake and under the water. On the bottom you see just on the  
322 other side of the drainpipe that crosses Cedar Drive, Elizabeth Lake and the results of  
323 dredging and additional care that has taken place on Elizabeth Lake from pretty  
324 persistent residents that, over the past couple of years, stood before you and  
325 recommended dredging and Ron Ott and Ronny Hopkins and Joe Zoltak and many  
326 others, and I'm here tonight to focus attention on Dogwood Lake, the biggest lake. In  
327 the pictures you see poor water quality, sludge, fungus, algae on much of the water  
328 surface. Excessive weed and grass plant growth throughout the lakes and under the  
329 water. Bank erosion on both west ends; the two sides right next to that pipe and those  
330 properties on the two ends of that side of the lake. Inadequate depth and storage  
331 capacity to accommodate recent years additional stormwater from nearby residential and  
332 commercial projects. There are many, over 25 residents, which live on Dogwood Lake.  
333 This lake is overwhelmingly the largest of all the Surfside lakes and has the greatest  
334 impact on stormwater and water quality for all Surfside Beach residents and visitors.  
335 Also, all Surfside residents pay tax for stormwater to the town and the county. It is time  
336 to really address the conditions of Dogwood Lake and its impact on Surfside Beach and  
337 Horry County. Compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System,

338 commonly known as NPDES, is important. Our local governments are now planning for  
339 2009 budgets, now is the time to plan for allocating appropriate significant dollars and  
340 town and county resources to fix and upgrade Dogwood Lake to meet the requirements  
341 set forth in the stormwater; the Horry County stormwater agreement, that stipulates a  
342 County/Town split of 70/30 in terms of sharing the expense for maintenance and the  
343 Surfside Beach Comprehensive Plan and the Surfside Beach Planning & Zoning codes  
344 and ordinances, so, addressing this lake is important I think now and in 2009, and I  
345 really would appreciate the town stepping up in a definitive way; getting it on the  
346 agendas with some target dates for completion in 2009. Thank you very much.”

347  
348 *Ron Ott, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North:* “I have one little bit of memory from the Jammin’ Leather  
349 that I remember and I remember from day one, sitting out there that when the people that  
350 owned the Water Park wanted to sell the land it was always the restaurant. The  
351 restaurant had to be there and the next thing I remember when they sold and they started  
352 building there it was the Surfside Beach Building Department that found that they  
353 poured the foundation and there is no foundation for a restaurant so they never said  
354 anything to this council, they never came back and said anything to anybody about it  
355 they just poured the concrete, no restaurant and the hillbillies will never see it and that’s  
356 all I have to say about that. Thank you very much.”

357  
358 *Sue Wahl, 510 South Poplar:* “First of all I don’t know a heck of a lot about all your  
359 lakes and all that kind of thing. I just sit here baffled all the time wondering why they’re  
360 all not included and they’re all not taken care of, I mean, I’ve been hearing about this  
361 ever since I’ve moved here and I think you should just include them all, get them all  
362 fixed, straighten it out. You seem to have all this money floating around anyway.  
363 Second of all, I don’t know when it was, a month or so, a couple weeks, whatever, you  
364 said something about business licenses are down, duh, now you’re talking about the  
365 economy and now they’re talking about this thing over at Jammin’ Leather, well,  
366 obviously we’ve heard before that he can’t get anybody in there because of a smoking  
367 ban, all right, you have that and then you have this other thing where you got your  
368 moratorium going on the bikers and you got this crazy economy in this world where all  
369 kind of nonsense is going on and I’m not even going to go there, but, all I keep seeing  
370 here in this town is a bunch of people sitting up there who keep finding ways to get  
371 money out of this town, to keep money out of here, okay, let’s not let people smoke, so  
372 therefore people don’t (sic) your businesses. Let’s not let the bikers come around so  
373 there’s more money out the door, I mean, this totally baffles me. I mean I’m not an  
374 extremely educated person, I’ve got a few years of college underneath my belt and that  
375 but the way I’ve always seen it in my life is you try to get money in, keep things going  
376 then you can fix your lakes and anything else you need done. I honestly have to tell you  
377 guys I don’t understand why you keep going out of your way to throw money out the  
378 window. Not only Surfside but there’s other towns around here also. That’s all I have.”

379  
380 *Tom O’Dare, Myrtle Beach Herald:* “I just wanted to let you know that, if you give me  
381 a couple of minutes, I’ve worked for several newspapers over the last 20 something  
382 years and the last 7 years this has been one of the most favorite beats I’ve ever covered  
383 and with that, I mean, you always got plenty of news, there’s always plenty to write  
384 about, but everybody on the council now and previous councils have always been very  
385 open with me. You might not have always agreed with everything I wrote but I tried to  
386 be fair. Just to let you know that this is my last Surfside council meeting I’m covering. I

387 accepted a job with a public relations firm in Myrtle Beach so I'll still be around but I  
388 just want to thank all you guys and all the people back here for all the help and all the  
389 friendships I've made in the last 7 years." (There was applause in the audience).

390  
391 *Heather Gale, Myrtle Beach Herald:* "I'm with the Myrtle Beach Herald and I'll be  
392 taking over for Tom." (There was applause in the audience).

393  
394 *Don Craig, 1011 Cedar Drive North:* "I also live on Dogwood Lake and Shelby is my  
395 neighbor and Bill and Betsy Thomas are my other neighbors. I have not lived on the  
396 lake that long as we built a new home there and when we moved, first starting building  
397 there, this lake was just very beautiful and of course we had to pay a premium to even  
398 get property on the lake as everybody that lives there, but my wife and I am very  
399 concerned about the condition of the lake. The pictures that Shelby has given you, you  
400 can see what it looks like. It has progressively gotten worse. We have been coming to  
401 Surfside for about 6 years now; we owned another home right off Surfside Drive before  
402 we moved over on Dogwood Lake but I've been trying to find, for over a year now, of  
403 what the condition was as far as Dogwood Lake. Was it going to be included and I have  
404 not been able to get a concrete answer that 'yes it will be done' and talked to Mr. Bob  
405 Childs a good friend of mine and he suggested I go through the Stormwater Committee.  
406 I've been to two of their meetings, excellent committee, doing an excellent job and I  
407 commend everybody on there and this council, as well, is doing an excellent job for the  
408 Town of Surfside but living on Dogwood Lake I would like to see this committee,  
409 certainly encourage the Stormwater Committee to take steps that this would be included  
410 because it's a lake just like all the others. I realize that it's the largest lake in Surfside; it  
411 will be more costly, I realize that too, but certainly it has the potential to be the prettiest  
412 lake that we have and once we get it to that point to where the lake is clean and if you go  
413 down to the back of my house, right to the edge of the lake you can see all of the  
414 sediment in there and I spoke with Ty about spraying and so forth and he does an  
415 excellent job, I commend him on it and you can kill what's on top but everything that's  
416 growing underneath is just going to continue to grow, so it's almost like trying to put a  
417 band-aid on there, but as brought up in the Stormwater meeting earlier today, if we can  
418 get the lake clean and I know that we can, and then educate myself and everybody that  
419 lives on that lake of what we need to do and what we need not to do to help keep it that  
420 way, but I would hope that this council would address this issue and hopefully that it  
421 could be put, some action put in place that perhaps in 2009 we would have some plan in  
422 place. 'Yes, we're going to do it and this is the time table that we have'. I appreciate it."

423  
424 **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

425 *Bob Childs:* "Tom, I'd like to wish you all the luck in the world in your new position  
426 and you have been fair with council and I hope you leave your book of fairness with the  
427 young lady that's going to take your place. Thank you."

428  
429 *Mr. Johnson:* "Mr. O'Dare as a former journalist I congratulate you for getting out of  
430 the business. You will now have a life (laughter in audience) and I would just like to  
431 thank everyone for coming out this evening. We may not make all the decisions that  
432 make everyone happy but we're giving it our best shot and thank you."

433  
434 *Mr. Samples:* "First I want to say good luck to you Tom and I know you'll be covering  
435 us anyway in your new life on the internet but I did want to go back and I wanted to

436 cover something that was mentioned tonight. You know, people talk about all the  
437 money we have and it sounds, you know they talk about the 7 million dollars cash we  
438 have. Yeah, that's true. What I want to remind you is we paid 2 ½ million dollars for a  
439 pier today and I want to read to you from the audit and you're more than welcome to  
440 look at it and I just want to remind you the other things that we have cash for. We got  
441 over a half a million dollars designated for street improvements, we've got a little more  
442 than \$100,000 for land, we have all of \$100,000 for emergencies, we have \$300,000 for  
443 cash flow requirements and I can tell you during the month of August it takes about a  
444 half a million dollars to operate this town and we do have \$600,000 for capital  
445 replacements so we are in great financial shape compared, relatively speaking, but there  
446 is no free lunch. It's not like we're sitting on a bunch of cash. We're going to build a  
447 fire station as you all know and then we better hope that we don't run into tough times  
448 because based on the commitments just to keep the town where it is, we're pretty well  
449 spoken for. Thanks for coming out.”

450  
451 Mayor Deaton: “Thanks Tom. You did a good job and I'd like to thank everyone for  
452 coming out tonight. Appreciate you and I would entertain a motion.”

453  
454 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

455 Mr. Martin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting  
456 was adjourned at 8:00 PM. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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458  
459 Approved: October 14, 2008

460 \_\_\_\_\_  
461 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

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464  
465 \_\_\_\_\_  
466 K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

467 \_\_\_\_\_  
468 Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

469  
470  
471 \_\_\_\_\_  
472 Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

473 \_\_\_\_\_  
474 James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

475  
476 \_\_\_\_\_  
477 Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

478 \_\_\_\_\_  
479 Mark Johnson, Town Council

480  
481 \_\_\_\_\_  
482 Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

483  
484 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the  
485 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  
486 on bulletin boards outside Council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.