



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
January 8, 2008 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hyman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Hyman, Mayor Pro Tem Truett and Councilmembers Hiatt, McKown, Samples, Martin and Tuttle were present. A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell & Director of Public Safety, Christenson.

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

Councilman Truett said the invocation. Mayor Hyman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hyman welcomed all in attendance.

3. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mayor Hyman asked for approval of the minutes from the December 11, 2007. Mr. McKown moved to approve the December 11, 2007 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Truett seconded. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

*P.L. Mabry, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North:* "In reference to the spending of the A-Tax money. I know that we have said many times we didn't know what to spend the money on. I want to bring to your attention to the fact that the crossovers and the beach accesses, where golf cart parking could be done, such as what we have done on Seaside Drive down there, beside the River City Café, and I think Mr. McKown knows where I'm speaking about. It looks real good and they did a real good job on it. We have 34 beach or 35 beach accesses with the crossovers, they're a lot like a paved street, we sometimes have to replace those when they're beaten, battered and abused. We have a lot that needs to be replaced and repaired which would increase our parking for tourism, of which the money comes from, that we're talking about spending. I would like for us to consider that as an option, if nothing else can become as a better idea. I think that would be one that would benefit the residents of this town so that they would be able to, tourists also, to park their golf carts of which they rent and use here in the town. It would give everybody a little bit more access to the beach, and not necessarily parking in your yard and have it down at the beach where the money's coming from. So I'd like to see you consider that as an option to help on the parking, which it would benefit everyone here in this town because a lot of these here crossovers, they're in need of repair right now and talk as if, or has been talk as if we're going to lose that money, it was going to just go away and we would never have a good reason to spend it on. I think this is a good reason; a good option to spend it on, is to repair and replace a lot of these crossovers and to fix the parking so the golf carts can be parked there instead of taking up some of our money making parking spaces that outside tourists use here in Surfside. Thank you."

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor asked for approval to amend the agenda to include a presentation from State Trooper Mark Simmons. Mr. McKown made the motion to add a presentation from State Trooper Mark Simmons to the agenda. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

52 **A. Presentation from State Trooper Mark Simmons regarding a Cancer Run he is**  
53 **organizing.**

54 Director Christenson stated that he and Officer Simmons worked together at Horry  
55 County Police; Officer Simmons left prior to Mr. Christenson and went to the South  
56 Carolina Highway Patrol. Mr. Christenson stated that Officer Simmons came to him  
57 approximately 3 to 4 months ago inquiring about a run for the American Cancer  
58 Society. Mr. Christenson stated that he personally could not think of a better  
59 charitable organization to donate to than this one and then introduced Officer  
60 Simmons.

61  
62 Officer Simmons stated that he has been with the Highway Patrol for approximately  
63 8 months and worked with Director Christenson for a couple of years at Horry  
64 County. Officer Simmons stated that Cancer is something that effects everyone  
65 whether you have it or you know someone who has it or you know someone who  
66 knows someone who has it. Mr. Simmons continued to state that, unfortunately,  
67 there are not enough advances in medical research and there is not enough money  
68 to assist everyone who has it. Officer Simmons stated that he is proposing to  
69 organize a fundraising event in the Town of Surfside Beach adding that having a  
70 smoke-free policy is a step in the direction of fighting Cancer. Officer Simmons  
71 stated that they are looking at a tentative date of April 19<sup>th</sup> to have this run; this  
72 would give both himself and Surfside time to prepare for the event. Officer Simmons  
73 stated that he has been in contact with upper levels at the Highway Patrol to get  
74 them to stand behind it as well. Surfside Beach is a well-known beach; it is a family  
75 beach and a beautiful beach with great scenery and Officer Simmons stated that he  
76 feels that there is no better place to have this run. Officer Simmons stated that he  
77 is asking for a couple hours on the morning of April 19<sup>th</sup> to have a 3.1mile/5 K event  
78 and also a 1 mile fun run for the kids or individuals who do not wish to do the entire  
79 5K run. Officer Simmons asked Town Council for their support. It was confirmed  
80 that the run would be on the street, not on the beach.

81  
82 Mr. Martin stated that in April there is a triathlon being held at Coastal and  
83 mentioned to Officer Simmons that he may want to check on that date so he doesn't  
84 run into a conflict with his run. Officer Simmons stated that he has been in contact  
85 with the American Cancer Society and also Runners Work.com who posts every  
86 event and also has a contact in Charleston that does triathlons that he will consult  
87 with and would check the date out because he definitely would not want a conflict.  
88 Officer Simmons stated that he is hoping to get local sponsorships through the town  
89 and the general area to get started; this is the first time he has ever done something  
90 like this and he is excited about getting it going. Mr. Martin stated that he would  
91 suggest that he speak with Mr. Booth regarding help in participation and the Rotary  
92 Club for assistance in planning the event. Mr. Samples stated that Officer Simmons  
93 should be commended for taking the initiative to put this together and offered his  
94 wife, Julie Samples' assistance in putting the run together and wished him luck with  
95 the event. Mr. McKown stated that the Rotary 10K has proven successful for  
96 Surfside and it has not shown to be an inconvenience for the residents in the past; it  
97 is just an addition to what Surfside Beach is all about in that it is a family beach and  
98 that he is in full support of this run. Ms. Tuttle stated that she supports this run also  
99 including that it seems to be consensus of Council that Officer Simmons meet with  
100 Mr. Booth to assist in getting this done. It was determined that the race currently is  
101 not named. Ms. Hiatt and Mr. Truett stated that they are also in favor of this run as  
102 well.

104  
105 **B. Building, Planning & Zoning Report**

106 Ms. Donevant was absent. Mr. Booth presented the report. Mr. Booth reported that  
107 the Building Department is down 90% in building permits. This is not cyclical; the  
108 town does not do cyclical. They are down to one new home and there are usually  
109 about 10. Mr. Booth stated that it is the same trend as last month and he will be  
110 revising the budget because it appears that they are going to be down about 80  
111 percent of revenues coming in, which is lower than what he originally thought. Mr.  
112 Booth stated that he is currently having the Building Department review all  
113 ordinances and Council will see some changes coming forward. Mr. Booth stated  
114 that he would probably take the Building Inspector and put him on part-time next  
115 month. Mr. Booth stated that he was part-time and then went full time so he will go  
116 back to part time. Mayor Hyman asked what Mr. Booth's plans were for the sizing of  
117 the Building Department. Mr. Booth stated that during the budget he already started  
118 to downsize the department because there just is not enough work there. Mr. Booth  
119 stated that he is now further downsizing it by putting the Inspector to part-time. Mr.  
120 Booth stated that he would report in the future on the efforts for redevelopment on  
121 Business 17.  
122

123 Mr. Samples asked if the Building Inspector received fringe benefits. It was  
124 confirmed by Mr. Booth that he does. Mr. Samples asked what happens when he  
125 goes to part time. Mr. Booth stated that he would need to review this situation  
126 adding that he is the only full-time/part-time employee and his benefits may need to  
127 be reduced accordingly because he may, at some point, need to go back to full-time  
128 again. Mr. Samples stated that the reason he raised the issue was because he may  
129 not be able to do this. Mr. Booth answered that he will look into this. It was  
130 confirmed that he was originally hired as part-time. Mr. Booth stated that the  
131 Inspector was kind of pushed into full-time because he was needed at that time but  
132 now that it has slowed down so much he will go back to part-time.  
133

134 **C. Public Safety Report**

135 Director Christenson stated that the month of December was very quiet. Mr.  
136 Christenson reported that Officer Lee Black will graduate this coming Friday from  
137 the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and he and a few other members of  
138 the department plan on attending the graduation at the academy. Mr. Christenson  
139 stated that if any of the members of Council would like to also attend he would be  
140 more than happy to take them. He added that it is put on in a very professional  
141 manner and is something to see. Mr. Christenson stated that the Dispatcher  
142 vacancy they had has been filled by Lynn Frick who begins work on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>  
143 of January; she is a resident of Surfside Beach and has over 20 years experience in  
144 working with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. Mr. Christenson  
145 reported that during the month of January the Department would be working on the  
146 evaluations, which need to be handed in by the end of the month. Mr. Christenson  
147 reported that there were two armed robberies in December; nine days before  
148 Christmas an individual walking his dog was approached by two white males, which  
149 exited a vehicle and attempted to rob him at gunpoint. Mr. Christenson stated that,  
150 again, because Council members have afforded the citizens of this town with the  
151 police force that we currently have, the officers were there instantaneously and were  
152 able to locate the vehicle and took both individuals into custody. They also  
153 recovered the handgun involved in the crime. Mr. Christenson stated that on  
154 January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:20 a.m. a white male attempted to gain forcible entry into a  
155 residence armed with a handgun; the officers arrived so quickly that the individual  
156 was not able to get much further than a block of woods across the street where they  
157 found him and also recovered the handgun. Mr. Christenson stated that they are  
158 looking forward to the New Year and wished everyone a happy New Year. Mr.

159 Christenson reported that he recently met with a representative from ADT; the  
160 department is looking at putting up a video surveillance system using A-Tax funding  
161 on Ocean Drive to deter crime. Mr. Christenson stated that ADT had done the  
162 system in Greenville, South Carolina and he thought it to be a phenomenal system.  
163

164 Mayor Hyman asked if there was an update on the K-9 unit as reported in the  
165 December meeting. Mr. Christenson stated that Commander Knowles of the Drug  
166 Enforcement Unit is still working out the dynamics of getting a handler for the dog; it  
167 is on the agenda for the Chief's meeting scheduled the following day. Commander  
168 Knowles has told Mr. Christenson that Conway is looking into donating another  
169 officer to the task force strictly as a K-9 handler. Mr. Christenson stated that he  
170 wanted to reiterate that Surfside is not getting rid of the K-9; they are simply putting  
171 it to work in a larger arena so it can get more drugs off the street before they hit  
172 Surfside Beach. Ms. Hiatt inquired as to whether the dog was used during the  
173 forced entry incident and Mr. Christenson stated that he was not; he was not  
174 working that day. Ms. Hiatt stated that the current computer person that the town  
175 uses has a security background and asked if Mr. Christenson spoke to him  
176 regarding the system. Mr. Christenson stated that he had spoken to him and has  
177 been trying for 2 months to get him to put a package together but has not, to date,  
178 provided one. Mr. Christenson stated that he believes that the computer consultant  
179 is very busy and has too much on his plate and sometimes it takes a week to get  
180 him to look at a computer issue. Mr. Christenson stated that since he has not  
181 received anything from him regarding the bid specs he requested he has looked into  
182 getting them from another source.  
183

#### 184 D. Administrator's Report

185 Mr. Booth presented his report. Mr. Booth reported that on January 3<sup>rd</sup> he received  
186 approval from the COG to do the sidewalk project. the project will include doing the  
187 rest of Hollywood and then going down 5<sup>th</sup> Street North. Mr. Booth stated that it is a  
188 \$47,500 project. It was confirmed that the project would go on 5<sup>th</sup> from Hollywood to  
189 Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Booth stated that he is still recruiting for Public Works and  
190 has received some good resumes; he also has an individual coming in this coming  
191 Friday that he will show around. Mr. Booth stated that he is confident that he will  
192 bring someone before Council that will have good qualifications. Mr. Booth reported  
193 that January 28<sup>th</sup> through February the 2<sup>nd</sup> he will be on vacation and he has  
194 appointed Director Christenson to be in charge while he is gone. Mr. Booth stated  
195 that Public Works is running smoothly and they are currently working on crossovers.  
196 Mr. Booth stated that he agrees with the public comment made earlier regarding the  
197 work that needs to be done on these crossovers. Mr. Booth stated that he has a  
198 conflict of interest on February 12<sup>th</sup> with the Council meeting scheduled; this is the  
199 day he needs to appear before the CTC to get the money to do Ocean Boulevard.  
200 Mr. Booth asked if Council would either want Director Christenson to take his place  
201 at the Council meeting or change the date of the Council meeting to Monday,  
202 February 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Samples made a motion to change the Council meeting date  
203 from Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hiatt seconded the  
204 motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**  
205  
206

206 Mr. Booth reported that election sign up starts Monday January 14<sup>th</sup> through Friday  
207 the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Booth stated that on January 14<sup>th</sup> there would be an Underground  
208 Utility Sub Committee meeting; Santee Cooper will return with a presentation for a  
209 recommendation. It was confirmed that this meeting would be at 5 PM. Mr. Booth  
210 reported that on January 15<sup>th</sup> there is a Planning and Zoning meeting to discuss  
211 redevelopment on Business 17; all of the businesses on Business 17 have been  
212 sent letters inviting them to attend. Mr. Booth stated that he is looking for feedback  
213 from the businesses as opposed to showing them a plan; at this meeting he will  
214 show examples of how buildings have changed by either painting or adding  
215 awnings. Mr. Booth stated that he was also going to talk about our ordinances and  
216 will be requesting input to begin upgrading them. It was confirmed that this meeting  
217 would be held at 6:30 PM. Mr. Booth encouraged Council to attend. Mr. Booth  
218 stated that there would be a Stormwater Committee on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM.  
219 Mr. Booth stated that the committee will be going over requirements and needs for  
220 the town and they will try to establish a path for the committee to follow.

221  
222 Mr. McKown had a question regarding the recent GSATS meeting regarding the  
223 grant money, which was lost on the sidewalks for Hollywood to expand to 17 North.  
224 Mr. McKown went on to state that he knows that it was put in the 2009 budget but  
225 an approximate \$40,000 grant was lost and asked what happened to it. Mr. Booth  
226 stated that we did not lose it, this is the one he just got; he went back and got it. Mr.  
227 McKown stated that he is on the board at the Cog and has not seen this approval  
228 and that is why he was questioning it. Mr. Booth stated that it was on January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
229 that it was approved and stated that Mr. McKown will be notified shortly that it went  
230 through. Mr. McKown asked Mr. Booth if they were talking about the same grant  
231 money; the GSATS grant money that somehow the town dropped the ball on and  
232 lost. Mr. Booth clarified that they have now allowed the grant; they are giving it  
233 back. Mr. Booth stated that somehow the project was started without prior State  
234 authorization; if you do this you then lose the money. Mr. McKown stated that he is  
235 confused and asked who approved this and Mr. Booth stated that the Technical  
236 Advisory Committee met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and approved it and it then goes to GSATS.

237  
238 Mr. McKown stated that he spoke to a few of the business owners along Surfside  
239 Drive and many people have been complaining about the trees; they are blocking  
240 storefront signage and they have broken up the concrete sidewalks. Mr. McKown  
241 stated that the way the sidewalk is designed around the new cigar business  
242 building, it pushes pedestrians out into the street and that we may want to look into  
243 this. Mr. Booth stated that we are currently looking at this situation. Mr. Booth  
244 stated that he has looked at other areas, like Wilmington, where concrete barriers  
245 and sand were installed around the trees so that the roots do not go out into the  
246 sidewalk.

247  
248 Mr. Samples commended Mr. Booth for working with the Director of Planning at the  
249 Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments to ensure that the town did not lose  
250 what had already been approved, but due to no fault of his, the ball was dropped;  
251 we dropped the ball on it, he added. Mr. Samples continued to state that since the  
252 project is an extension of Hollywood, which was the originally approved project, the  
253 \$47,000 was made available. Mr. Booth stated that letters were just sent out to all  
254 of the residents in the County who use our recreation program; the story was also  
255 written up in the newspaper and added that this is to put pressure on the County to  
256 help pay for this program. He added that in the next few days when the County gets  
257 the 900 calls or so that he expects them to get, he would then go in front of the  
258 County Council to present them with a proposal. Mr. McKown stated that if one  
259 looks at their tax bill, they will see that 2.3 percent goes toward recreation and if you  
260 look at the overall budget of the County it is close to a billion dollars and he does not

261 believe that Surfside is seeing much of their share out of this. Mr. Booth stated that  
262 it's not so much getting our share as it is that we are recreating the children in the  
263 County and it is the responsibility of the County to do this. The County has allowed  
264 us to pay for this and somehow it has become a right rather than their responsibility  
265 and it is time to bring it back to them as their responsibility. Mr. Booth stated that  
266 the County had promised \$16,000 and the total cost to recreate the children is  
267 \$300,000 and he is asking for \$150,000. Mr. Booth reported that the total cost for  
268 the Recreation Department is \$500,000 of which 86 percent of the participants  
269 belong in the County. Mr. Booth stressed that he is not running down the program  
270 because he feels that we have a world-class program. Mr. McKown stated that we  
271 needed to "raise our hand" and get some of those funds back. Mayor Hyman stated  
272 that every automobile and house will pay the 2.3 mills and then the County allocates  
273 \$200,000 to Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Socastee and Surfside and the  
274 question is what are they doing with the rest of the millions. Mayor Hyman stated  
275 that he read Howard Barnard's comment in the paper regarding the recreation funds  
276 where he stated that the town should have just asked him and that he didn't know  
277 anything about it but we've been asking him ever since he's been on the County  
278 Council and we still only received \$16,000.

279  
280 Ms. Hiatt asked Mr. Booth if he has looked at Greenville's redevelopment and the  
281 trees on their streets and Mr. Booth stated that he has. There was discussion as to  
282 how we could have tree-lined streets without overgrowing. Mr. Booth stated that we  
283 would need to change the system of how we plant the trees so the roots will not  
284 spread. Mr. Booth agreed that tree lined streets are more desirable. Ms. Hiatt  
285 stated that if we change the trees perhaps we could use the same trees that  
286 Greenville used. Mr. Samples commended Mr. Booth for going after the recreation  
287 money and stated that this issue has existed for some time and we are not the only  
288 municipality effected; historically Horry County has relied on the municipalities to  
289 fund recreation. Mr. Samples added that it would be a sea change if he is  
290 successful and he wished him luck adding that he has the support of Council. Mr.  
291 Booth stated that the County is taking our tax money and they get to use their tax  
292 money and not recreate their children and that is keeping Surfside Beach from doing  
293 things within our own town and it is not fair.

## 294 295 **6. DISCUSSION**

### 296 ***A-Tax projects suggested for use of funds***

297 Mr. Booth stated that he does not want to lose the \$900,000 from the Accommodations  
298 Tax and presented some ideas it could be used for. Mr. Booth added that this is open  
299 for discussion and they are just items he thought of and is looking for other ideas and  
300 input. Mr. Booth presented some ideas, which included items such as new restrooms,  
301 crossovers and parking. Mr. Booth stated that he will take whatever ideas Council  
302 comes up with to Columbia to let them know what we are proposing to use the funds  
303 for. Mayor Hyman explained to those in the audience that the \$900,000 is the money  
304 that the town had saved through A-Tax to do beach re-nourishment and luckily we went  
305 to Washington and lobbied and got involved with Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach  
306 and the County and ended up paying just a small amount towards the beach re-  
307 nourishment we are currently receiving and now we have \$900,000 in A-Tax money,  
308 and if we do not spend it within a certain amount of time, or have it allocated towards  
309 particular projects, then the town loses it. Mayor Hyman stressed that this is something  
310 that we definitely do not want to lose. Mayor Hyman added that this is money that was  
311 also discussed to use towards purchasing the Pier but the Pier deal is currently on hold.  
312 Mr. Martin stated that we are currently including 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for underground  
313 wiring and when we get to Seaside Drive, which is the Horizon Time Warner portion of  
314 the project, which will not come out of the Santee Cooper fund, this project should come  
315 out of this money. Mr. Martin told Mr. Booth that Jan Lewis has that number so he

316 could get the estimate for Time Warner and Horizon. Mr. Booth stated that he would  
317 put this as a sub-set under the special events. Mr. McKown asked if the State is flexible  
318 about moving the allocation of these funds and Mr. Booth stated that they were. Ms.  
319 Hiatt asked if we allocated these funds and wanted to move them back to the Pier,  
320 could we do that and Mr. Booth stated that if he had Council direction he would sell that  
321 to the State. Mr. Samples had questions regarding some of the estimated numbers for  
322 the projects presented. Mr. Samples stated that he would like to see more money  
323 moved into the beautification of Surfside Drive and Highway 17 and also used in areas  
324 around some of our lakes with gazebo type structures. Mr. Booth stated that he had  
325 walked around a lake in Wilmington and they did a beautiful job with the surrounding  
326 area and they also have a small amphitheater they are building. Mr. McKown asked  
327 about a piece of property the town purchased from McQuiddy on Poplar and Surfside  
328 Drive and whether we were planning on making it into a parking lot. Mr. Booth stated  
329 that it is currently a non-conforming lot and can only be used for a house at this point  
330 and it may need to be made into a conforming use in the ordinance. Mr. McKown  
331 stated that this might make a nice little park. Mr. Booth stated that staff is currently  
332 reviewing the ordinances and the minutes to see how the ordinances were created and  
333 some may need to change. Mr. Booth stressed that it is important to have good  
334 ordinances in your planning and zoning. It was confirmed that a park is an authorized  
335 use. Ms. Hiatt asked if the town was going to use the lot to put materials on when they  
336 begin the construction of the fire department and Mr. Booth answered that they may.  
337 Mr. Booth stated that he has a meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> with DP3 to go over the forms  
338 that were filled out and returned to them.  
339

340 **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General. – 5 Minutes**

341 *Mark Lawler, North Poplar:* “About 5 months ago I started walking to get back in shape  
342 a little bit and it seems like everywhere you go dogs have left their presents around  
343 here. On the beach, on the side of the street and you see people walking up and down  
344 the street taking their dogs from their house down to their neighbors to do their business  
345 and I came up here yesterday after seeing 3 piles of it down on the beach where  
346 somebody has decorated it with feathers, and it’s a \$225 fine, but I don’t think people  
347 know that they’re supposed to pick up after their dogs or they just don’t care, one or the  
348 other. Now, you send around flyers that say which way to put your trash cart so the  
349 new truck can pick them up and everything like that and I was thinking maybe they can  
350 send these around to everybody and let them know that they’re not supposed to let their  
351 dog use their neighbors yard and they’re supposed to pick up after themselves. I live  
352 right around the corner from you Mr. Mayor and you also Ms. Tuttle and there’s dogs up  
353 and down that street all day long and you could make a thousand dollars a day just by  
354 handing out fines, just in that one block, so I would appreciate it if we could get this  
355 word out to people, if you got a dog, take care of it.”  
356

357 Mayor Hyman stated that he agrees and asked Mr. Booth to look into this for him. Mr.  
358 Booth stated that he would also put a banner on the next newsletter.  
359

360 *Trudy Elliott, 1411 Highway 17:* “I would like to add, I totally agree with this gentleman,  
361 but you also need to add about the leash law, it is unreal, it is exactly like, I have a dog  
362 and we never fail to get it up because it is our beach and we want to protect it. I think  
363 everybody should go with the leash law and like he said, give them a ticket, if they don’t  
364 pick up the dogs extras. Also, I want to say that I have a plan for Mr. Booth to use that  
365 money. I was thinking of something that would make Surfside so unique, because  
366 obviously we love Surfside Beach. Have you thought about putting palm trees on the  
367 beach? I’ve never heard anybody say, do that and I do know for a fact because I’ve  
368 been here a long time from Little River to Murrells Inlet, there’s not a single palm tree on  
369 anybody’s beach and then the question would arise about hurricanes, well, somebody  
370 better tell all them folks in Florida because they have palm trees on every beach and

371 the hurricanes don't seem to get them. They may get one occasionally but just think of  
372 how unique that would be to Surfside if we had palm trees because, you know, we  
373 could clearly say, we're the only beach in the entire Grand Strand that has palm trees  
374 which would also add a little shade. Okay, that's one thing I want to say, then I want to  
375 ask the question, I wanted to ask why is it that you have to live in Surfside Beach to run  
376 for city council? I don't think that's right. I don't think it's fair. The reason being if  
377 you're a business owner that you're paying high taxes, you have more stringent codes  
378 to go by, we're providing jobs for the city, we're helping the economy, we have to pay  
379 for all these permits, we're attracting tourists which also brings money and that is  
380 certainly more than a homeowner is doing, I mean, you know, they're paying taxes  
381 obviously too. I'm not belittling what they do for contributions but business owners,  
382 especially big business owners, not me, but big business owners, could do a lot for this  
383 council. They're coming at it certainly from a business point of view. I know a lot of you  
384 all are businessmen so I don't understand why you have to actually live in Surfside  
385 Beach to be on the Council."

386  
387 Mr. Booth answered that it is State Law.

388  
389 Ms. Elliott: "Why? Why can't you change it? You changed the smoking thing right  
390 away."

391  
392 Mr. Booth answered that she would have to go to her State Representative for this.

393  
394 Ms. Elliott: "So you all can't do anything about that?"

395  
396 Mr. McKown instructed her to contact Nelson Hardwick.

397  
398 Ms. Elliott: "Okay, well one more thing. I totally agree with the other man about more  
399 golf cart parking. Everybody here, a lot of folks have golf carts that live here, we need  
400 more golf cart parking. Thank you very much."

401  
402 *P.L. Mabry, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North:* "In reference to Ocean Boulevard and Highway 17. I  
403 know you may have sent to the business owners, businesses along here to get input  
404 but I think you'd get a lot more if you talk with the owners of the property. The actual  
405 property owners are usually the ones that are going to end up having to pay the bill and  
406 the renters would like to have the property owner do all kinds of things for them, but I  
407 think that this is one aspect that needs to be brought out and get those people in.  
408 Councilman Samples here, I always called him Doug, Doug had mentioned about the  
409 landscaping Highway 17, many years ago and I know most of you who have lived here  
410 for any period of time remember there was a big difference when you came out of  
411 Myrtle Beach and you came into Surfside from Myrtle Beach or from Murrells Inlet  
412 coming north. Over the years we went and did landscaping out along Highway 17 but  
413 we haven't done anything to improve that since 20 years ago. Now, Myrtle Beach and  
414 Murrells Inlet have done a lot to increase their look or their appeal and I do think that  
415 when we receive, or close to a million dollars a year in Accommodation and Hospitality  
416 tax money, that we could reinvest back into our own community. I don't mean to be  
417 critical about that, I've preached this sermon before, so I would like to see, look toward  
418 seriously reinvesting along Highway 17 out here, to make Surfside a much more  
419 pleasant place to live and to attract our quality, our paying rental property, the people  
420 that pay to rent here and to reinvest along Ocean Boulevard is another aspect that, if  
421 you, Mr. McKown there, which owns property along Ocean Boulevard, knows that every  
422 week that he can get his houses full or fuller, is more, is a benefit to him, but he knows  
423 that it would help the total thing is for people that come down here in the wintertime, that  
424 are the winter rentals when they say we'll stay down in Garden City for a fee which is  
425 less than Surfside, so when we have our place looking a lot more and I'll say greener

426 than theirs in the wintertime then you're able to make more money and all of the other  
427 businesses and they'll pay more in accommodation tax and they'll pay more in Horry  
428 County when they're staying directly here in our town, so if we look at the big picture  
429 and reinvest in Surfside think of it as a garden and all I'm asking you to do is put some  
430 fertilizer on the garden. Make it grow; make our society here, our community be a much  
431 better place. Thank you."

433 *Randall Stevens, 412 1st Avenue North:* "Came to talk to you a little bit more about the  
434 subject I'm still talking about and that's the library and I'm responding to an e-mail from  
435 Doug Samples that talks about, 'not in my backyard'. After researching the library  
436 project I found that this goes a lot more deeper and a lot further than anybody would  
437 have ever expected. I found out later that, indeed, the library is in a flood zone and  
438 that's a high-risk flood area. Also, that area is prone to a 23 foot 4 inch storm surge. If  
439 that happens the library will be flooded. We spend 4.2 million dollars on the taxpayer's  
440 money, your money, my money and all these people's money; we're going to have a  
441 flooded library. The other thing is most businesses, builders like for example D.R.  
442 Horton, Beezer Homes, any builder in this building or in this town knows if you build 2  
443 buildings exactly the same size by the same architect, by the same builder, by the same  
444 engineer, you're going to save money. That's why if the County builds a library  
445 elsewhere they're going to save, probably, more than a million dollars because a 20,000  
446 square foot library, according to their budget, was going to cost 3.3 million out at the  
447 Carolina Forest. They can do the same thing out here. The other thing that I also  
448 noticed is that this Surfside library is also going to cost us money in other ways.  
449 According to the South Carolina Budget Control Board, I contacted the (SIC) would cost  
450 to insure a place here in Surfside Beach versus, say, Scipio Lane where the County has  
451 48.3 acres to build a library, 101 percent more in Surfside than out there. Again, the  
452 taxpayer is footing the bill for something really stupid, in my opinion. Now, of course,  
453 you're looking at saving a million dollars here, million dollars there, it just makes good  
454 sense. I was also told that Surfside library is one of the top used, it's not. It's 4<sup>th</sup> and of  
455 about that, somewhere between 25 to 50 percent of that is out-of-towners. I've been  
456 doing a document on that and checked that. Everybody says that the other area was  
457 too close to Socastee library, in reality, it's 6.2 miles from the Socastee library to the  
458 Surfside library; out on Highway 544, going down the Bypass, it's 7 miles. It's 4 more  
459 point 1 miles from the Inlet Square Mall to the Surfside library. It's 4 miles to the County  
460 property. The main thing that we're looking at, that's another thing that really doesn't  
461 hold water, I know that the Burgess community is now involved in this library and they're  
462 going to want it in their area because it's centrally located, it's closer to schools. You're  
463 Saint James School, the Burgess Elementary is within a quarter of a mile, the Saint  
464 James Elementary and Saint James Middle School, so, if Surfside continues on with  
465 this library and we hit, get hit by a storm like, say the (SIC) State of Florida when  
466 hurricane Andrew hit, we're going to be looking at a 4.2 million dollar expansion that  
467 costs 323 dollars a square foot versus 167 dollars a square foot for a new library where  
468 it won't be flooded and that new library is going to be full of flood water, so, everything  
469 about this, the Surfside library just doesn't hold water but it will hold stormwater when  
470 that happens, so, the best alternative for the taxpayers, not only in Surfside, but in this  
471 entire County, Garden City, no matter where you might live. If you live over there in  
472 Spring Valley on the other side of the County, or Loris, where I'm originally from, let's  
473 just scrap this library, it's not worth it, it's not worth it in cost to taxpayers, it's not worth it  
474 to cost. . . I read your minutes in the workshop and I commend Becky Hiatt for asking a  
475 lot of questions and also Mayor Hyman for asking a lot of question but everybody else  
476 seemed like they were going to take a rubber stamp and say 'approved', 'approved',  
477 'approved', without asking one question, whatsoever. It's time for the elected officials to  
478 start looking out for the taxpayer's money, that's when you get your best bet. Thank  
479 you."

481 Tom Dodge, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North: "I was surprised when I looked at the agenda here,  
482 there's nothing on there about the library. There was a workshop scheduled and you  
483 cancelled that. Are you trying to slide this library under the rug so that the town's  
484 people don't know what you're doing? You should have a workshop on it so people can  
485 discuss it. The last meeting I was at here when we talked about the library, the  
486 overwhelming amount of people that talked about the library was negative, not to put it  
487 here. You people are elected by the people in the town to represent the people in the  
488 town. You're not doing that, if you put that library where our library is right now. We  
489 don't need a bigger library. We do need a library, the one we have, but just keep in  
490 mind you're represented to represent the town. We voted you in and we can sure as  
491 the devil vote you out. You should listen to the people of the town and not build this  
492 library in town here but build it out on Scipio Lane where the County owns the property.  
493 I, and all these people here that have been here for any time at all, I've been here  
494 paying taxes for 16 years, I helped buy that land at the library, my tax money, not the  
495 County's. I didn't buy that to give it to the County and you people should not give it to  
496 the County. Thank you."  
497

498 **8. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

499 Mr. Samples: "Filing to run for Council or Mayor is next week, it cost 25 dollars to run  
500 for Council, it cost 50 dollars to run for Mayor. Bring your checkbook. The reason that  
501 we didn't meet on the library, frankly, it's premature, in my opinion, and that's what my  
502 e-mail said, ok? All right? The reality is, is that something that we need to consider is  
503 that if we don't reach an accommodation with the County on the library is that we're  
504 very likely to lose the library we have. Is that a bad thing? I, for one, believe loss of the  
505 Surfside Beach library is terrible. I think it's a real asset to have in town, a library that  
506 we can walk to. So, I have mixed feelings about what is being proposed, but I think that  
507 what is being painted, and a number of you already know what I think, is that it's by  
508 design you're trying to politicize it to kill it, ok? That's not what I want to do. What I  
509 would like to see is to sit down with cooler heads and negotiate with the County on what  
510 it is exactly we do in Surfside Beach. Now if most people are unwilling to do that then it  
511 is going to be an all or nothing situation, it's going to be the same kind of situation we  
512 had with the bike path, where we lost 300,000 dollars that was earmarked here, yes we  
513 did, but if we'd sat down and been reasonable about it we could have improved and  
514 reached an accommodation, we could have had an improvement so the folks who live  
515 here and the tourists, at no expense to the taxpayers, in this town. I would remind . . .  
516 and Randy I know you've been working with County Council to get it changed and to get  
517 it killed and that's certainly your right. I think that, I know that Councilman Barnard,  
518 Howard Barnard, is very disappointed, I think he's very surprised at the reaction,  
519 perhaps it wasn't handled in the best way in terms of bringing plans and having public  
520 hearings and public input but that's going to happen before the first shovel is turned and  
521 so I would encourage everybody to sign up, tell us what you're going to do and run for  
522 election and you'll have the pleasure to vote. Thank you."  
523

524 Ms. Tuttle: "A lot of misinformation is there regarding the library. It is premature, the  
525 process is very premature, but the facts will become self-evident and I feel that the  
526 library, for our town, the value to our town is priceless."  
527

528 Ms. Hiatt: "The thing Mr. Samples mentioned on the bike path, throwing the money out  
529 the window, so to speak, one of the problems we had with that is it wasn't going to join  
530 anything. Myrtle Beach wasn't going to come down to us on the North end neither was  
531 Garden City so we really didn't have a whole lot of choice when we made that decision  
532 and the first time the County came to us about a library we specifically told them that we  
533 were only interested in going up and they brought everything but going up with the  
534 library. It was going to be spread out everywhere, there was nothing mentioned that  
535 day there was a possibility that they would go up a second floor."

536  
537 Mayor Hyman: "I have to comment on that bike path Doug was talking about, we gave  
538 away the 300,000 dollars, I disagree with Mr. Samples on that for the simple reason this  
539 was a 25 percent matching grant and the proposal was to run it down Ocean Boulevard  
540 and it wouldn't happen anyway for the simple reason that the County has already said  
541 that they will not connect to it and with Greenway, they would have to connect, so, in my  
542 opinion, we saved the town taxpayers 20 percent of that Greenway and they don't even  
543 run it the way it should be out in County anyway, so that's not a loss to me as far as I'm  
544 concerned."  
545

546 Mr. McKown: "In all fairness and we like to, you know everybody has their own opinion  
547 on things, so in all fairness to Councilman Samples, starting to get beat up here on this  
548 bike path, the actual numbers are about 365,000 dollars but as a member of the COG,  
549 we oversee, our board oversaw that project and if Surfside Beach would have gone  
550 along with that program, it would have attached to the Myrtle Beach end and it would've  
551 attached to Garden City so that needs to be brought out, that's a fair statement. We  
552 need to have clear heads when we discuss these issues, reference library, and some of  
553 these others, we do, as a town, we need opportunities, we lost an opportunity with the  
554 bike path, and 300,000 plus money, and it's not *if* we don't work out something with the  
555 County, the library will move. I'm not saying it's, either way, is this the best place or  
556 over there is the best place, the facts are this, if we do not come to an agreement with  
557 the County, it will not stay in Surfside, it will be moved out of this town, so I think that we  
558 need to get back to where the public's involved, have an open discussion about this and  
559 all of us come together and work together with the people, the County, the staff, the  
560 residents and this Council to see what's best for everybody here. We leave it in the  
561 town limits or do we take it outside the town limits and that's where I'd like to come to an  
562 agreement with everybody."  
563

564 **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Pursuant to FOIA § 30-4-70(a)(1)**

565 Mayor Hyman stated that Council would now be going into executive session to discuss  
566 a personnel issue and asked if the town attorney was with us tonight to discuss the  
567 personnel issue. Mr. Booth stated that this is not this type of issue where he is needed.  
568 Mr. Martin made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.  
569 Mr. Truett seconded the motion. There was discussion. Mr. McKown stated that he  
570 does not like going into executive session adding that our business is the public's  
571 business and he asked what it was that Council was going to discuss. Mr. McKown  
572 asked if it was in reference to an employee because there are rules that FOIA has to  
573 follow to go into executive session and he wants to confirm the purpose. Mr. Martin  
574 stated that anytime we need to discuss personnel or the performance of personnel it is  
575 to the benefit of that person and the town to do that in executive session and that is why  
576 he requested it. Mr. McKown asked if we are going to identify this person. Mr. Martin  
577 stated that he would not do that publicly. Ms. Hiatt asked if the person is with us  
578 currently because it's not personnel if the person is no longer here. Mr. Martin stated  
579 that no one has ever questioned like this before when a request was made to go into  
580 executive session and added that he does not understand what is happening. Ms.  
581 Tuttle added that the purpose of an executive session regarding a personnel matter is  
582 to not speak publicly about an individual because it could be used against the town.  
583 Mayor Hyman stated that he believes that the Council is trying to micromanage the  
584 Administrator and his decisions and he does not believe that every comment from an  
585 employee should be discussed; he would like the Council to stay out of it and let him do  
586 his job. **Mr. Martin and Ms. Tuttle voted to go into executive session. Mayor  
587 Hyman, Mr. Truett, Ms. Hiatt, Mr. Samples and Mr. McKown voted against.**  
588 **MOTION DENIED.**  
589

589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621

**10. REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. McKown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 P.M. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk


Approved: January 22, 2008

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca J. Hiatt, Town Council

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William M. McKown, Town Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith K. Tuttle, Town Council

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.