



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 22, 2008 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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10 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

17 Councilwoman Hiatt said the invocation. Mayor Hyman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
18 Mayor Hyman welcomed all in attendance.

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20 **3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

21 Mayor Hyman asked for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2008. Mr.
22 Samples moved to approve the January 8, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr.
23 Truett seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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25 **4. AMENDED AGENDA**

26 Mr. Samples made a motion to amend the agenda to include Proclamation #08-61 to
27 recognize William M. McKown. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. **All voted in favor.**
28 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

31 There were no public comments.

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33 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

34 **A. *Proclamation #08-61 To Recognize William M. McKown, Councilman***

35 Ms. Pinnell read the proclamation on file. Mr. McKown stated that back in August,
36 2007, the Governor had asked him to serve as the District 1 State Commissioner for
37 the Aeronautics Commission and he told him that he would accept the position and
38 was appointed by the general assembly to take this position where he will be sworn
39 in on January 24th, 2008 so this would be his last day serving as Councilman for the
40 Town of Surfside Beach; he added that an individual cannot serve two commission
41 positions in the State of South Carolina. Mr. McKown stated that he has really
42 enjoyed serving the residents of South Carolina in Surfside Beach. Mr. McKown
43 stated that Surfside would still continue to have two voices on GSATS; where he is
44 a member and was appointed 3 years ago and will continue to serve on this
45 committee. He will also continue to serve on the Waccamaw Regional Council of
46 Government as a Board Member. Mr. McKown stated that with these two positions
47 he will continue to try to bring money into Surfside and work with the Council to help
48 get funding. Mr. McKown stated that he has really enjoyed serving on Council for
49 Surfside Beach; the residents are great; he added that you meet so many people in
50 public service and it is very addicting and he would recommend to anyone if they
51 have any inclination to run for office to go ahead and do it because everyone should
52 serve at least 4 years to get involved in town activities. Mr. McKown stated that he
53 appreciated the opportunity to serve and thanked everyone in attendance. (There
54 was applause in the audience). Mayor Hyman presented Mr. McKown with a plaque
55 and thanked him for his contributions to the town.

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B. Finance Report

Ms. Hursey presented the finance report as submitted for December 2007. Ms. Hursey reported that everything is running smoothly. Ms Hursey stated that the year-end payroll has been completed and W-2's would be mailed this week. Ms. Hursey reported that the interest rates have begun to drop and she expects them to continue to drop but we have already made our budget for the year so the projections for next year will be adjusted. Mr. Samples asked if the property tax collections have picked up stating that as of December it looks like we are \$200,000 lower year over year. Ms. Hursey stated that last December was exceptionally higher; this December was only \$600,000 plus and usually January is the largest collection month.

C. Public Works Report

Mr. Booth presented the report as submitted, acting as interim Public Works Director. Mr. Booth stated that financially the department is well within the budget and more money from the State is expected to come in. Mr. Booth stated that they are currently building crossovers to the beach and they are also working on some 50-50 projects. Mr. Booth stated that there were nineteen 50-50 projects and they are equipped to do more but they have not yet received any additional applications in. Mr. Booth stated that he believes that Public Works is running well and he is pleased with what he sees getting done around town. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Booth how the Public Works Director search is going. Mr. Booth stated that he is going through all of the resumes and will be setting up interviews shortly; he already had two prospects from other towns come in and he showed them around but he is looking at all of the resumes he gets in. He wants to get the right person with the right personality to work in this position. Mayor Hyman stated that we have a very good Public Works Department; we've had several staff people that have been with the department for 20 to 25 years and they know what to do and what needs to be done; they know their job; he is not worried about them not doing their jobs.

D. Administrator's Report

Mr. Booth presented his report. Mr. Booth reported that the Grand Strand is out doing smoke testing. This testing involves putting smoke into the sewer line to find out if it goes into the homes. If your traps are dry, smoke will get in and they need to fix these problems. Mr. Booth reported that some residents were unaware of this testing going on and were surprised to see smoke in their homes. Mr. Booth questioned whether they had sent out letters to everyone regarding this being done. Mr. Booth reported that there had been many water breaks reported during this recent cold spell. The fire department had gone out to turn off the water on many homes that had not been winterized where these breaks occurred; many repairs will need to be made. Mr. Booth reported that the Surfside Beautification Committee currently consists of residents Ann Dodge, MaryBeth Mabry and Nancy Childs and some staff members. Mr. Booth stated that he is looking for additional volunteers. Mr. Booth showed a few slides one of Amelia Island, which was provided by Ms. Mabry to show some ideas for Surfside Drive. Mr. Booth showed some slides of Orangeburg that he took of their sidewalks, plantings and pavers. Mr. Booth added that our problem is that our trees are now too large and the roots are coming up through the sidewalks and they are cracking; they are not just tearing up the sidewalks but they are starting to effect the streets as well. Mr. Booth stated that at this point he cannot save the trees, the roots are too far set in the ground; he had two groups of specialists look at it and they were both in agreement that the trees could not be saved and they would need to be replaced. Mr. Booth commented that a border should be placed around trees to keep the roots from spreading and the trees in Town never had this done. Mr. Booth reported that Orangeburg had

112 their street paid for with a maximum grant of \$200,000 from DOT; they have been
113 doing this for six years and every year they get a \$200,000 grant and do another
114 block and all the Town of Surfside Beach would need is \$200,000 and he is
115 planning on going for this grant to do our downtown area. Mr. Booth stated that the
116 deal is that the town does the streets over and the owners of the buildings agree to
117 upgrade their buildings; the match that the town would need to make is 20 percent.
118 Mr. Booth stated that the Beautification Committee would be looking at different
119 designs and ideas to make recommendations of.

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121 Mr. Booth reported on the Planning and Zoning Commission 17 corridor Public
122 Hearing. Mr. Booth stated that the Town goes by the International Property
123 Management Code and with this he can force owners to comply with certain issues,
124 however, before he does this he wants to make sure that the town's ordinances
125 have some architectural standards put in place otherwise if he forces an owner to
126 refurbish their building they may paint it purple and that is not what the town is
127 looking for. Mr. Booth stated that he would be working on these ordinances soon
128 and then he will go through the Planning & Zoning Commission and then present it
129 to Council. Mr. Booth showed additional photos of deserted buildings and some
130 other photos of buildings in town. Mr. Booth then presented some examples of
131 buildings before and after photos. Mr. Booth reported that many of those in
132 attendance at the Business 17 meeting stated that they would like to see the median
133 done over, there was discussion regarding underground wiring and new signage.
134 Mr. Booth reported that it was a very positive meeting and he would like to continue
135 to move forward and put some action to some of these ideas.

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137 Ms. Hiatt stated that she did receive a letter from Grand Strand regarding the smoke
138 testing so perhaps some of them were lost in the mail. Ms. Hiatt asked if a water
139 line would be put in along Surfside Drive during the redevelopment phase so that
140 the trees could be watered. Mr. Booth answered that this could be part of the
141 project. Mr. Booth stated that since we do not own the water system we would have
142 to see if this is something that is financially feasible to do. Ms. Hiatt stated that she
143 would like the town to look into this. Ms. Hiatt asked if we still had a Signage
144 Committee that was part of the Planning & Zoning. Mr. Booth answered that we do
145 not have this committee currently in place. Ms. Tuttle stated that we have a piece of
146 property at the corner of Surfside Drive and Poplar and when the Town purchased it
147 the intent was to use it for parking and she understands that it is currently in an R-2
148 section but can we not look into creating a park which would include parking. Mr.
149 Booth stated that he and Ms. Donevant are currently looking to see how much
150 parking we get away with, without breaking the ordinance and having it be a park.
151 Ms. Tuttle stated that talking about "getting away with parking," there is nothing in
152 the ordinance that gives definition to the number of parking spaces. Mr. Booth
153 stated that this is true but if you have more parking than park then it would be hard
154 to say that it is a park; they are looking into this; they are trying to see the right mix
155 that would be acceptable without saying that we ourselves are breaking our own
156 ordinances. Mr. Booth stated that a good mix might be 49 and 51 percent. Ms.
157 Tuttle stated that we have owned this property long enough without it being utilized.
158 Mr. Samples asked if the Beautification Committee meetings are being held and
159 asked when the next meeting would be. Mr. Booth stated that the meetings are
160 every Monday at 10 AM and anyone that wants to come and give input is welcome
161 to come. Mr. Samples asked if the Beautification Committee is also involved in the
162 Business 17 efforts and Mr. Booth stated that they are not; Business 17 and
163 Surfside Drive are two separate efforts. Mr. Booth stated that they might get
164 involved in the planting of the median but he believes that we need a totally
165 separate committee for Business 17. Mr. Booth clarified that we are not establishing
166 a redevelopment committee or an architectural review committee he is just trying to

167 place things in the ordinances so that when Planning and Zoning reviews this it will
168 be there. Mr. Booth stated that he needs standards and would like a committee to
169 come up with a recommendation for color schemes. Mr. Booth stated that another
170 committee would be established under Planning & Zoning. Mr. Samples stated that
171 a creation of incentives was one of the items discussed at the Business 17 meeting,
172 which he attended, as opposed to the enforcement tool and he believes that we
173 should explore the avenue of how we can create incentives to encourage the
174 property owners, without hurting the local business people, to upgrade their
175 buildings. Mr. Samples stated that it is clear to anyone that has lived here for a
176 while that some of these buildings are in great need of a facelift. Mr. Samples
177 stated that he just wants to assure that anyone from town could give their input
178 regarding town beautification and redevelopment. There was discussion as to the
179 process of changing ordinances through planning and zoning being a long process
180 and Mr. Booth assured Council that he would do a lot of the research prior to
181 presenting the ordinances. Mr. Booth stated that he agrees that it is very important
182 to have the public input every step of the way during this process. He stated that
183 this keeps them involved and they feel that they are a part of the plan and it is not
184 something that is just forced upon the town. Mr. Samples asked where we were at
185 with the sidewalk on Surfside Drive and the trees and asked if it was something that
186 would be proposed and brought to Council. Mr. Booth answered that it would be
187 proposed and brought to Council; Mr. Booth stated that they are looking to do a
188 small sample section that should not interfere with anyone so that everyone can get
189 a feel of what we want to try to do. Mr. Booth added that is should be minor in cost.
190 Mr. McKown stated that he hopes that Council and staff listen to the residents and
191 asked Mr. Booth if he had spoken with any of the owners that have businesses
192 along Surfside Drive. Mr. Booth answered that he has. Mr. McKown added that the
193 owners have been asking for years to have the trees removed; they cause mold,
194 they block their signage, pedestrians have tripped on the upturned sidewalks from
195 the roots coming through. Mr. Booth stated that they are encouraging input from
196 everyone including the owners. Ms. Tuttle stated that she had also attended the
197 Business 17 meeting and added that there seemed to be two different ideas
198 discussed; the beautification and the economic development of the Business district.
199 Ms. Tuttle stated that the meeting did evolve where it did focus more on the
200 beautification, which would give quicker results. Ms. Tuttle stated that she would
201 like to see the town come up with an economic development plan and target
202 businesses that the town would feel would be an asset to the community and
203 actively pursue those businesses. Mr. Booth stated that he agreed and this usually
204 goes hand in hand but what he is concentrating on now is for the current businesses
205 to fix what they already have; this will make the area more attractive and bring more
206 businesses into the area. Currently there are vacant buildings and lots available.
207 Mr. Booth stated that once Wal-Mart comes into the area there would be many
208 businesses that will look to come into this area; Wal-Mart performs a very detailed
209 study regarding traffic and good market areas. Mr. Booth stated that he did not hear
210 much resistance at the meeting for the town's plans to redevelop the area. Mr.
211 Booth stated that he would still need to research the incentive end and look into
212 what other towns do. Mr. Booth stated that some towns give too much, he has seen
213 where developers are reimbursed by some cities. Mr. Booth stated that he is more
214 for a 50-50 match on items such as awnings. Ms. Tuttle stated that there is a lot of
215 activity out on the Bypass and she would like to see some of that take place in
216 Surfside. Mr. Booth stated that he believes that this will happen with the traffic that
217 the Hard Rock Park will draw and also the economic climate will keep people from
218 going to Florida so he is hoping that we become the focal point and, as we do, more
219 traffic will mean more business will build in our area. Mr. Truett stated that it was
220 very enlightening when Duckworth and Associates, landscape engineers, came in
221 and presented a proposal to Planning and Zoning, the public and to Council and

222 they did an overlay of Surfside Drive and it was amazing to see the before and after
223 renderings of what it could actually look like. Mr. Truett stated that he agrees with
224 Mr. McKown that the business owners on Surfside Drive are ready to leave; we sent
225 them letters three years ago asking them what kind of trees they would like to see
226 and to date we have done nothing about it. Mr. Truett stated that we should look at
227 getting the grant money that is out there and Surfside Drive is a focal point of the
228 town; it is the town's Main Street and he added that he believes that Mr. Booth is on
229 the right path and stated that he appreciates his efforts. Mr. Truett added that
230 Council has known that these trees have been a problem three years ago and they
231 are still there. Mr. Booth stated that they are in the process of doing something
232 about them. Mr. Truett added that he does not like the idea of cutting them down
233 but to redevelop you have to start fresh. Mr. Booth stated that he wanted to move
234 them but everyone he spoke to told him that it would not be possible to save them
235 because of the root system. Mr. Truett stated that he realizes that this is a problem;
236 there are water lines and gas lines that we have to take into consideration. Mr.
237 Booth stated that he was told that he would kill the trees no matter how he tried to
238 remove them.

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240 Mr. Booth reported that he attended a meeting the previous week in Anderson and
241 because it was next to Greenville he was able to meet with DP3. Mr. Booth stated
242 that they would like to set up a workshop on the second meeting in February if
243 Council is in agreement; the meeting would be around 5 PM and they are basically
244 looking for input; this would be the preliminary workshop and it should not run more
245 than an hour or so to get some ideas. There was consensus of Council to have the
246 workshop meeting on February 26th at 5:00 PM. Mr. Booth stated that at the
247 Council meeting the same day he will present the updated budget and decision
248 papers. Mr. Booth reported that the first Stormwater meeting would be held the
249 following day at 5 PM; he is anticipating that it will be a short meeting; they will be
250 looking for the scope of projects, times and dates of future meetings, looking for
251 ideas and whether we will be doing the 5 mill stormwater fees or not. Mr. Booth
252 added that if we do not do the 5 mills then we do not need a committee because
253 there will be no money to spend. Mr. Booth stated that they would be bringing back
254 recommendations to Council in the future. Mr. Samples asked when they would be
255 receiving the 08/09 drafted proposed budget. Mr. Booth stated that Council would
256 be receiving what they had talked about in a workshop and then it would be revised
257 for February 26th and then Council would receive the whole budget right after that.
258 Ms. Tuttle added that we also need a public hearing on the budget with two
259 readings. Mr. Booth stated that Council would have the two readings in March. Mr.
260 Booth stated that Council would have the budget before that so they have time to
261 read it and make comments.

262
263 Mayor Hyman held up a large cut-out key from Goodwill adding that Goodwill had
264 their ribbon cutting this past Friday morning and they are located next to Lowes on
265 17 Bypass. Mayor Hyman stated the wonderful thing about Goodwill is that they
266 hire all handicapped employees. Mayor Hyman added that if you drop items off they
267 would give you a tax deduction sheet. Mayor Hyman stated that he would like to
268 promote Goodwill because he was very impressed with what they do and he feels
269 that Goodwill will be an asset to Surfside.

270 271 272 **7. BUSINESS**

273 ***Issue Paper –Street Light Choice – 14th Avenue Recommendation***

274 Mr. Booth presented the issue paper on the street light recommendation from the
275 Underground Wiring Committee. Mr. Booth reported that Santee Cooper had attended
276 a previous Council meeting and gave a presentation; he came back to the Underground

277 Wiring Committee to present his recommendation, which was similar to the lighting on
278 the old Airforce Base; the Heritage. Mr. Truett made a motion to accept the
279 recommendation of the Heritage light. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. McKown
280 asked if the lights would all be uniform to all of the other projects and Mr. Booth
281 answered that they would. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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283 Mr. Booth listed the names of the candidates running for Mayor, Roy Hyman, Sammy
284 Truett and Allen Deaton and the candidates running for Council would be Rebecca
285 Hiatt, William Dempfer (for the record, correction on name, should be Rempfer), Mark
286 Johnson, Judy Tuttle, Randle Stevens, Bob Childs and Vicki Blair. Mayor Hyman
287 thanked the candidates in the audience for running and asked them to stand and be
288 recognized. Candidates in attendance, Allen Deaton, Bob Childs, Vicki Blair and Mark
289 Johnson stood (there was applause in the audience). Mr. Samples asked which
290 candidates were not in attendance and it was noted by Mayor Hyman that Randle
291 Stevens and William Rempfer were not in attendance.
292

293 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General. – 5 Minutes**

294 *Janet Gainey, 8th Avenue South:* “Surfside Drive, the lot there adjacent to the home that
295 I own there. Very concerned with the way the topic was discussed tonight. There were
296 things said about how are we going to ‘get away’ with putting a parking lot there. I don’t
297 like that idea. I mean, I don’t like the way it’s being discussed, obviously I have a
298 vested interest in that and I’ve been working on this since, jeez what year was it, 2003
299 maybe. I understand Surfside wishes to make use of the property. I can’t blame them
300 for that, however, when Surfside bought that property it was listed as residential just as
301 it is listed as residential today. I’m not saying a park is a bad idea but when Surfside
302 starts saying things like ‘how are we going to get away with parking, maybe do 49
303 percent 51 percent’ I just don’t like that type of an attitude. I think the residents, myself
304 included, deserve the respect for it to be discussed differently and I mean, obviously I
305 would like Surfside Drive and discussions on Surfside Drive to be continued to include
306 further down Surfside Drive, I mean, I make no secret of that, but, I just have concerns
307 with the way it’s discussed, so I’d like that to be changed. Also if there’s any future
308 plans for those lots I would like to be included in those to see what type of layout there
309 is going to be suggested for there, I mean, when Surfside brought that up they said ‘oh,
310 we’re going to put a parking lot there’, Surfside Beach, excuse me Tom, knew that
311 wasn’t allowed there, it’s not legal to put a parking lot there, so, I mean, what are we
312 going to do, what are we going to change in the future to make it to where, what
313 Surfside Beach wants to put there and the residents want to put there, because I’m not
314 saying all the residents are for my plan either. I’m not saying that. I think we need to
315 come together and discuss it respectfully instead of saying ‘what can Surfside get away
316 with’. Thank you.”
317

318 *Joe Zoltak, 414 Pine Drive:* “I’d like to follow up on Ms. Gainey’s conversation and what
319 she said here too. What was said here tonight about making parks that was 49 percent
320 parking for cars and 51 percent for parks. Parks in an R-1 and R2 neighborhood are
321 not intended to be Wal-Marts where people drive to the place. They’re intended where
322 people need to get exercise and walk to them. Parks are great to have in an R-1 and R-
323 2 community. Currently parking lots are only a permitted use in the R-3 and commercial
324 zone and there are no setbacks required for parking lots in those zones. Changing an
325 ordinance to do exactly what Mr. Booth said is going to impact everyone in this room in
326 the R-1 and R-2 district because, whether you realize it or not, the vacant lot or the
327 homes right next to you could be destroyed and they could be declared a park with 49
328 percent parking and 51 percent park. Thank you and good evening.”
329

330 *P.L. Mabry, 15th Avenue North:* “I didn’t sign up to run for Council but if you want to do
331 a write in, it’s P.L. . . but I know that you are quite relieved that I didn’t sign up to run for

332 Council. I was going to talk on the subject on parking on Surfside Drive. The area that
333 has a lot that was purchased by the town on Surfside Drive. for you to have a realistic
334 development on Surfside Drive that lot needs to be developed into a parking lot and
335 that's what it was bought for, if I'm not mistaken, but the point I'm really getting at is
336 when you talk about redevelopment and economic impact what it's going to do for
337 Surfside, those businesses down there, to earn to be viable businesses, they have to
338 have a realistic amount of parking. Now this lot is contiguous with a commercial lot,
339 with commercial property, now if it needs to be rezoned, it certainly needs to be
340 rezoned, bear in mind this also, the comment was made in reference to the landscaping
341 and the amount required. This Council needs to make sure that the lot is properly
342 developed with landscaping, it's not that we're trying to get 10 pounds in a 5 pound
343 package but we'd like to have the package sort of wrapped up with a ribbon on it, so
344 let's try our best to keep that in mind. Now, not to complain too much about what Mr.
345 Booth, comments were made, concerning Highway 17. If you would look into what the
346 County has done with their corridor 544 or whatever, you could not build certain types of
347 buildings within a certain closeness to 544. They have to be a little more different type
348 materials that have to be on there, now, the point I want to complain about, if it's a
349 complaint, so be it, is that when we use phrasing up here a few times, I wrote them
350 down, it was the 'we found', 'I gave', 'I want to', 'we', 'we have', 'we should', 'I want', 'we
351 are', 'I am'. I know that you're trying to do the best job you possibly can, Mr. Booth, but
352 as we know that we and I and we found, I have never found we. It doesn't exist when it
353 comes to saying 'the people' or 'we found', you really need to have a little more slower
354 dialogue and have the 'we' here to present their issues or their cases within this room
355 here and that's not a complaint, it's just the way that P.L. Mabry thinks it should be done
356 and not that I think that you're doing it wrong, I just would like to see more input as to
357 how it's going to be done. The other point is when you start talking about redeveloping
358 somebody else's property, their property, not in front of their property, but their property,
359 with tax dollars from this town, everybody should get the same break. All the
360 businesses should get that same opportunity and I don't know that we're talking all the
361 businesses or just ones on Surfside Drive. It's not that they are not good businesses
362 and they are good businesses, it's just the fact that everybody needs to be included
363 when you start talking about matching grants, 50-50 on the property. I know that all the
364 businesses that have business, not property owners but businesses, they would
365 certainly like to see their property enhanced, but the property owner is the guy that has
366 to pay the bills and those are the guys that you need to have up here and if it takes a
367 special tax district, it has been discussed before, in this room right here, not by all of
368 you, but it has been discussed, and when it came down to the fact of the property
369 owners reinvesting back into, I never saw too many people raise their hands and want
370 to do that but if you want those businesses to grow or be able to grow they will have to
371 have parking along Surfside Drive and if a person has to walk from the corner up the
372 street they'll just have to walk because there's no other places to put vehicles along
373 Surfside Drive unless the town starts buying additional property to have parking on.
374 Now when you discuss taking the parking meter fund out of existence and putting it in
375 the general fund, the money to pay for these improvements, the parking, will be lost
376 forever, when it goes into that big pot it's hard to say well, we got money in there for that
377 when if it's not distinguished between this pocket and this pocket, it will be lost. I hope
378 that you do not lose that distinctive fund for redevelopment of parking and the things
379 that it was designed for when it was originally dubbed (SIC). Thank you very much."
380

381 *Lois Duffy, Surfside Beach:* "I guess you know who I am, most of you do, my name is
382 Lois Duffy and after working here for ten years, I was dismissed, without even being
383 offered another job, another position, and you've done this to everybody. I speak not
384 only for me but for all the employees that have been forced out, pushed out and have
385 left. Many of them that have worked many, many years for this town and have been
386 devoted to working for this town and not one of you cares. None of you. You all knew

387 about it, you all knew about it before I did, it was all over the streets of Surfside Drive
388 and this started with me four years ago when you allowed the Building and Zoning
389 Director to hire a payroll clerk to do the job of a Zoning Administrator for which she was
390 clueless and once you give your department heads power they keep it. Who trains your
391 department heads? We're out there in the trenches; we're out there pushing your
392 papers and we're out there listening to the concerns of the citizens of this town but yet
393 our voice is never heard. There are staff meetings, staff doesn't go, it's a farce. You
394 should call it a department heads meeting. We're not even called in once a year to say,
395 got any concerns? Can we do anything a little easier? Could we make it little better?
396 Noooo. We get no credit. Just look at the past five years, how many long term workers
397 have left? The town used to be a nice town. People, the workforce was nice, it was a
398 family atmosphere, no more. People are watching their backs. I'm being treated like I
399 have the plague. Not one person has said, 'doing ok Lois?' Not one, because they're
400 afraid that if they have any compassion for me they're going to be next and you all allow
401 it, every one of you. So now you finally didn't find me another chair, so I'm out? I've
402 been refused a vacation for three summers. My department head refused me to go to a
403 family wedding because we were too busy? All I wanted was a Friday and a Monday
404 and I would have made it up and back but she took her two weeks vacation and she
405 takes off when she wants to take off and that's fine. I don't have a problem with it and
406 then after everything's all cleaned up we don't need Lois anymore? The joke is, have
407 box will travel. I've traveled enough for you people. I did a good job in the Building and
408 Zoning Department and you know it. I had no business being in that Fire Department
409 and no business being in that Police Department and I had no business being in that
410 Court Department but you needed somebody to sit there so the door would be open,
411 now you don't need the door open any more? So I'm out, after ten years and none of
412 you care, not one of you and then what I'm given on my separation doesn't match what
413 the Finance Department prepared and I can't get in touch with Mr. Booth because he's
414 unavailable? If you don't believe my concerns, ask the Mayor because he does know.
415 This has to stop. You might be a right to work state but we don't have to be treated like
416 we're subservient animals. We come to work every day and we work hard and there
417 are, not too many anymore, that have a lot of years service because if you haven't fired
418 them you pushed them out. You just made life so difficult and it's not right and you all
419 need to look at it and I speak for every employee that works for the town of Surfside
420 Beach that is still working who's afraid to talk. It's not right and not one of you care.
421 Not one. My husband and I love this town even before we moved here. Is my time up?
422 Well, you know what, it's not up because I have ten years of life with you people."

423
424 Mayor Hyman thanked Ms. Duffy for her comments.

425
426 *Ms. Duffy:* "Thank you, too."

427
428 *Mr. Christenson:* "On behalf of the Department of Public Safety. I just wanted to say
429 tonight I didn't realize until today when I got a phone call from the Mayor that
430 Councilman McKown was stepping down and I just wanted to take an opportunity to say
431 thank you for what you've done. Not only for the town of Surfside Beach but for the
432 South Strand as a whole, being I live here and I do want to say I appreciate the scrutiny
433 that you guys subject yourself to. I see a lot of harmonious attitudes in town, maybe
434 contrary to what Lois has said, I do feel for her, but I do see a lot of good work going on
435 in the town and I appreciate what each and every one of you do and I know you subject
436 yourself to the scrutiny and I want to say good luck in your future endeavors and you're
437 still a member of this town and if you ever need anything we're here for you and be glad
438 to help you."
439

439
440 **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

441 *Mr. Truett:* "I just wanted to echo what Andy had to say in regards to Mr. McKown. I've
442 enjoyed the four years, haven't always agreed but communication lines have always
443 been open and that's the key to getting anything done. I wish you luck in Columbia and
444 all your future endeavors and like Andy said, you still live here and you're still part of
445 this community and good luck and thanks."

446
447 *Ms. Hiatt:* "I'd just like to say that I've enjoyed serving with Bill for the last almost four
448 years now and we will miss him. Wish him well and I hope he doesn't forget us."

449
450 *Ms. Tuttle:* "I too wish Mr. McKown the best. Thank you for serving the town. I've
451 enjoyed working with you and wish you the best."

452
453 *Mr. Martin:* "I also wish you the best, Bill and I know you'll do great things in your new
454 job."

455
456 *Mr. Samples:* "Good luck Bill. I did want to address Ms. Gainey's comments earlier that
457 she made with respect to the parking lot. We bought it to be a parking lot; if in fact it's in
458 the wrong zone then what I don't understand is why we haven't put rezoning notices out
459 there, taking public input, taking it to the planning commission and doing it the way it's
460 supposed to be done. It's not spot zoning. It is contiguous to the commercial district.
461 Let's do it right. Let's do it up front. Let's do it the way it's supposed to be done. We
462 need to lead; we need to set the examples."

463
464 *Mayor Hyman:* "You know, I hate to see Bill go too but I'm real proud that he got the
465 Aeronautics Commission for the State of South Carolina. It's a great honor for
466 someone to get appointed by the Governor to that high position and I enjoyed serving
467 with Bill because, you know, when Bill's around really there's never a dull moment
468 because he's always keeping it going and to me that's a lot of fun and I appreciate
469 everything that Bill has done for the town but Bill was so anxious every time I had to go
470 somewhere he was ready to go with me to represent the town of Surfside Beach and I
471 do appreciate that and also I would like to thank Becky for remembering my wife in your
472 prayers too because, you know, this is the first crisis Darlene and I have every had, as
473 old as we are and this is the very first one and it's hard for us to deal with. Bill, I turn it
474 over to you."

475
476 *Mr. McKown:* "I appreciate all the kind comments. I just wanted to make one mention
477 to Lois. Lois, I'm sorry that (SIC) and I can assure you, in all fairness, this
478 councilmember didn't know. I don't get involved in day to day activities of employees
479 and I don't know if it was a staff decision but this is the first I heard of it; that you were
480 leaving, position was eliminated. That being said, I know there's a lot, we sent out the
481 survey and I told you all that I would give you the results of it. I had about 300
482 responses to this survey. Some were actually shocking but to go down the list real
483 quick and the smoking survey was pretty much split down the middle, but a little bit
484 more leaning towards, most people wrote in their comments the fact that they were not
485 happy that the fact that the Council would impose those types of restrictions on
486 businesses and that was pretty consistent on all the ones that were opposed to it. With
487 reference to the Pier, there's a strong, strong, probably 80, 90 percent of the population
488 wants, says that Surfside Beach should purchase the Pier if they had the capacity to do
489 it. The one thing that did surprise me on the one issue on the comment was the home
490 rule situation where it was a split there, too. I was surprised that the residents felt that
491 the town could be served better at the State level than at the local level which really
492 surprised me and I hope that's not a reflection of the Council because I know they do a
493 good job and hard work (SIC). When it comes to elections I was also surprised, there

494 was a majority of the people thought that they should, in fact, it was almost 90 percent
495 and Councilman Martin and I counted them up and there was 200 of them he helped
496 me process that the, they wanted to change the, now this is the residents talking, said
497 that they would prefer to have the elections run in November opposed to April and the
498 vocal small minority (SIC) because again, 80 or 90 percent said that it should be
499 moved, the residents, said it should be moved to November . They also said, about 90
500 percent said we should have term limits and the term limits were 4 to 8 years and that's
501 the max so I was really surprised to see those returns as well." Mr. McKown stated that
502 he has enjoyed working for the town and added that being on Council you can come to
503 the Council meetings twice a month or you can also attend all of the functions. "With
504 that being said, you know we got elections coming up here soon and I hope everybody
505 participates. We got three, I know everybody on this list and I know, I've heard some of
506 these comments who's Bill (Rempfer) well Bill's been here for along time, he's a
507 businessman, he has the towing operation over here on 17 and I know everyone of
508 these people and I think everyone of them would be a great candidate, would be, would
509 serve the town well but I think you should take in some things, considerations,
510 Councilman Truett is a great Councilman and I know he's been a great guy but when it
511 comes to the Mayor, the Councilmembers are all of equal power here, the Mayor is all
512 status, all they do, the Mayor goes to all the functions and I can assure you that in the
513 last four years I've been here, there's only been one or two Coucilmembers that go to
514 any functions, I mean that's the facts, I mean, and the people like Bob and Nancy
515 Childs who go to all the functions, they can concur on this because they see it and most
516 of the residents know it too. You have opportunities as Councils; you can go to the
517 Municipal Association and get your certification. Some of these Councilmembers on
518 Council have those, some of the Councilmembers haven't, I don't know why, but, with
519 that being said, I think the existing Councilmembers that you have on here, this is a
520 tough job and the incumbents, I think, myself, I'm going to vote for all the incumbents
521 and I have a vote in this town and that's who I'm going to vote for because you know,
522 they work hard and they go to the functions and the three that are up for re-election
523 here all go to the functions but you can have, and you know, I've heard this word,
524 change, you know, we need change, but you know if you have change you have no
525 representation. You know, we don't live in a glass bowl here in this community, we live
526 in the Grand Strand and we're effected by all the other communities and funding has a
527 lot to do with it. We're talking about these great projects here, if you don't have the
528 relationships with these outside forces, you're not going to get money for this. That's
529 the reality of it. Why is it that you go to some communities the communities are so nice
530 they look so good, it's because the relationships with those community leaders have
531 with the outside leaders and that's what you have here now, you have a great Mayor,
532 you have a great Council and again, I consider Sammy, I do business with Sammy, I
533 appreciate him as a friend and the good thing is that if Sammy doesn't get (SIC), he's
534 still going to be on Council and that's the good thing, but I think that Ms. Hiatt and Ms.
535 Tuttle are doing an excellent job and I'd like to see both of them again, like, as I said,
536 I'm going to vote for both of those people as well, so, whoever gets my slot, good luck
537 to you. The one's that come to the meetings will see, they'll know that they'll have four
538 years of a lot of controversy and somebody mentioned something to me and they said
539 you know when you run for Council, when you first run 100 percent of the people like
540 you and after the first two years only 50 percent of the people like you, but that's true,
541 so remember that when you go ahead and start knocking on doors and walk around.
542 You might just get what you wish for. Thank you."

543
544 *Mayor Hyman:* I hope that's not correct because as long as I've been here, nobody
545 likes me, I can tell you that." (laughter in audience).
546

547 Mr. Truett made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. McKown seconded the
548 motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** (7:50 PM)

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10. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Pursuant to FOIA § 30-4-70(a)(1)-Personnel Issue

Mr. Samples made a motion to reconvene into Regular Session. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

11. REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Truett made a motion to enter into an employment contract with Edwin L. Booth that are consistent with town ordinances and to authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of Town Council. Mr. McKown seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

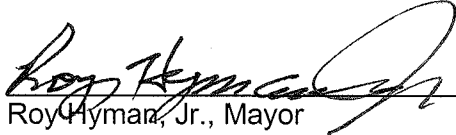
12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Samples made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**



Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Approved: February 11, 2008



Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor



Rebecca J. Hiatt, Town Council

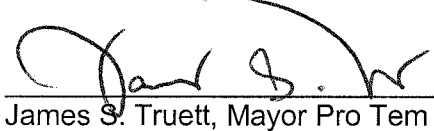


Joseph P. Martin, Town Council



Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

William M. McKown, 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.

