



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 24, 2009 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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10 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

11 Mayor Deaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Deaton, Mayor Pro Tem
12 Truett and Councilmembers Blair, Johnson, Martin, Samples and Childs were present.
13 A quorum was present. Staff present: Administrator Booth; Clerk Pinnell, Public Works
14 Director Taylor and Finance Treasurer Hursey. Attorney Mr. Smith was also present.

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

17 Pastor Robert Hayes, South Strand Assembly of God gave the invocation. Mayor
18 Deaton led the pledge of allegiance.

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20 **3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

21 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Samples seconded
22 the motion. **All voted in favor to approve the amended agenda. MOTION**
23 **CARRIED.**

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25 **4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

26 Mr. Truett made a motion to approve the amended minutes from the meeting held
27 November 10, 2009. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
28 **CARRIED.**

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30 **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items only – 3 minutes per speaker**

31 *There were no public comments on the agenda items.*

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33 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

34 **a. *Employee Recognition: Todd Horn, 5 Years***

35 Todd Horn was recognized for 5 years of service. Mr. Horn was presented a plaque
36 and a check for his service.

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38 **b. *Finance Report***

39 Mr. Booth reported that the town is currently 52 percent into the budget year and is
40 in line with both expenditures and revenues. There was a small issue with the
41 accommodations tax and it has since been resolved by the town treasurer Ms.
42 Hursey. Property taxes are valued at 52 million; which is up 2 million from the
43 previous year and this is due to some new construction. Mr. Booth reported that
44 workers' compensation should be going down with some return showing the
45 following year. Mr. Booth reported that liability insurance has also decreased; the
46 employees are doing their best to keep accidents down. Mr. Johnson asked Mr.
47 Booth to explain the accommodations tax problem to those in attendance. Mr. Booth
48 stated that Dunes Realty was not originally calculated in the figures and it is now
49 being corrected. The adjustment would be approximately \$52,000. Mayor Deaton
50 explained that accommodation tax money is money that the town generates that goes
51 to Columbia and then comes back to the town from accommodations.

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c. Public Works Report

Mr. Booth reported that he would cover Public Works when he does his report explaining the updates on town projects.

d. Recreation

Mr. Booth reported that December 3rd would be the tree lighting at 7 PM. December 4th there will be an employee luncheon at noon; councilmembers are invited. The Fire Department has their annual holiday party on December 5th at 6:30PM. December 12th is the Christmas parade. Mr. Booth asked council to let Ms. Ellis know if they were going to participate in the parade. Mr. Johnson added Breakfast with Santa is to be held December 19th 9 AM to 10:30 AM at Ryan's Steakhouse. Mr. Booth reported that the Rotary Club has their annual 10K run the end of January.

e. Administrators Report

i. Project Updates

Mr. Booth showed a PowerPoint presentation of current town projects. Mr. Booth reported on the fire department construction adding that it should be completed in January. Mr. Martin asked when a list of furnishings and equipment for the fire station would be presented to council. Mr. Booth stated that the town did go out for bids for this and council will receive it at the next meeting. Underground wiring project was presented. Mr. Booth reported on the Passive Park project; stations would be installed and the town will continue to add additional stations. The town is looking to add trees to connect the two parks and add a gazebo. Mr. Booth reported that the dog park is ready for a fence to be installed. The decking for the pier has been designed and the town will use materials it has on hand and will use in-house labor to keep the cost down. Materials were purchased with the pier enterprise fund. Mr. Booth reported that permits are expected to come in the next week or so. Mr. Booth reported on a new crossover to be installed. OCRM is now requiring towns to place crossovers over the dunes and soon everyone will need to comply. Mr. Childs asked if the walkovers used by trucks would also need to be extended. Mr. Booth answered that all of them will be extended. Mr. Truett asked about expansion of sitting areas on the walkovers. Mr. Booth stated that this was still the plan.

Mr. Booth showed a photo of where the next enhancement project would be placed over by Floral Lake. Mr. Booth reported that parking spots could also be added there. Mr. Booth reported that the town would have already begun this project but the town found they had to get an easement; some individuals own some of the property going into the lake. Mr. Booth reported on the installations of new fountains in the lakes; currently they will be replacing the bubble fountains. Mr. Booth stated that the town anticipates beginning the pier project around December 1st.

ii. One Town Council Meeting in December

Mr. Booth reported that there will only be one council meeting in December.

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iii. Parking Plan Discussion and Transportation Plan Public Hearing on December 8th

Mr. Booth reported that council should have a copy of the parking plan by the following week and DDC requested having a workshop to discuss the plan. DDC would make a presentation to council.

iv. Reduction in Workmen's Comp and Insurance Costs

Mr. Booth stated that he discussed this earlier.

v. Stormwater Update

Mr. Booth reported that the Stormwater Committee recently had a workshop and members from the University of South Carolina and Fish and Wild Life gave reports. It was reported at that meeting that Surfside Beach has good stormwater practices. Mr. Booth stated that it was mentioned that the town was the best in the State. The 5th Avenue swash was mentioned as a concern; it is identified within their organizations as a real anomaly. All of the other town swashes are doing very well and they are trying to figure out why this swash has problems. Mr. Booth stated that he believes that the birds are the issue.

Mr. Booth reported that during the recent Accommodation Tax meeting it was mentioned by members that they have seen a change in the atmosphere of the town and that the town is more user friendly and they have seen a change for the better. Mr. Booth stated that it was nice to hear positive feedback about the town from one of our committee.

Mr. Samples asked if the Stormwater Committee has looked at the use of vegetation around the ponds. If you remove the birds they come back. Mr. Booth agreed and this will be an issue that the town will eventually work out.

vi. Request for consensus of council to proceed with Planning & Zoning text amendments

Mr. Booth stated that the Planning Commission has asked for consensus from council to move forward on working on text amendments for zoning ordinances. There had been 72 changes in the past to the ordinances and the commission had to review them all to make sure they all fit together and made sense. Mayor Deaton stated that this process began over a year ago; the Planning Commission had been given a task to go through all of the zoning ordinances to make sure they conform with each other and those of State and Federal regulations. Mr. Samples requested to consider approving to move forward on the technical changes and would like to have a workshop with the Waccamaw Regional consultant to go over the policy changes being that some of the policy changes will be controversial. There was consensus of council to separate the technical aspects form the policy aspects. There was a consensus of council to instruct the Planning Commission to move forward on drafting text for the technical issues. Mr. Booth confirmed that a workshop to discuss policy would be set up.

150 Mr. Booth reported that the police department went through 18 of the town
151 restaurants and 6 of them received citations for smoking. Mr. Booth reported
152 that the town has just received a \$45,000 energy conservation grant from the
153 County. This will change out everything from light bulbs to air conditioners
154 and heaters. Mayor Deaton stated that this is the towns' first receipt of
155 stimulus funds. Mr. Booth stated that the town would not have to match any
156 funds. Mr. Booth reported that the land exchange is on line, the town has two
157 things they need to do; one is to write the Indian Tribe to make sure they do not
158 have any interest in the land and the second is that it needs to be open for a 30
159 day period so that the public can make comments and the town would need to
160 address these comments. It would then be moved to the federal government to
161 approve or not approve. Mr. Booth stated that during his visit in Columbia he
162 found that they have a fair amount of money to purchase land. Mr. Booth
163 stated that 3rd Avenue South has been brought up previously as a possibility for
164 the town to purchase; it has large oak trees and through the grant the land must
165 be made into a park. Mr. Booth stated that this is a 50/50 grant and would need
166 consensus from council to move ahead and look into the cost to purchase this
167 land. Mayor Deaton stated that this is the former location of the Tillman
168 Plantation which was called the Arke and this is more than likely the most
169 historical piece of land that currently exists in Surfside Beach. The Mayor
170 added that this land contains some of the oldest and most beautiful oaks in
171 town. There was confirmation that the consensus would be for Mr. Booth to
172 proceed in pursuing the grant only. Mr. Booth stated that there is a deadline of
173 next week to submit the preliminary request. There was consensus of all
174 council to give Mr. Booth permission to pursue the grant.

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176 Mr. Johnson asked for an explanation on why the town would need to write to
177 the Indian tribe concerning the land. Mr. Booth explained that this is a federal
178 requirement. Throughout the State there is an Indian tribe, Catawba Indians;
179 they did not own land in this area but it is a federal requirement that requests
180 towns to make sure there is no interest in the land.

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182 **7. BUSINESS**

183 **A. *First Reading Ordinance #09-0678: Procurement***

184 Mr. Smith stated that it was originally proposed by council that sections 2-185 be
185 created to include definitions. This section now includes three definitions; a
186 definition for a *budgeted expenditure*, a *non-budgeted expenditure* and an *open*
187 *contact*. Section 2-208 now has a section (e) created and in Section 2-210 bidding
188 exceptions there was a removal of a word and an added sentence. Section (d) was
189 also revised. This is currently being presented as a first reading. Mr. Samples made
190 a motion to adopt the revised first reading as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the
191 motion. Mr. Samples reported that Ms. Hursey was a great help in defining a
192 budgeted expenditure. It was confirmed that the reference of the level of expenditure
193 included a department; departments are not crossed. Ms. Hursey explained "object
194 of expenditure level". Ms. Hursey explained that this term follows the town's chart
195 of accounts. The chart of accounts has a fund, a department and an object. The
196 object is office supplies, repairs and maintenance, communications, printing, etc. If
197 the town budgeted a certain amount for office supplies the town would be held to

198 that object level of expenditure and not exceed it or transfer it. Mr. Samples added
199 that the ordinance still permits unbudgeted expenditures and that council would just
200 need to be informed of these as soon as possible. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
201 **CARRIED.**

202 **B. *Decision Paper: Media Advertising - use of MB Chamber Funds***

203 Mr. Booth explained that this is a request to use funds being held by the Myrtle
204 Beach Chamber for the town to use for marketing. The request is to use money to
205 advertise upcoming town sponsored events. Mr. Samples made a motion to adopt
206 the staff recommendation. Mr. Truett seconded the motion. Mr. Truett made a
207 suggestion to use more 15 second spots than 30; the town would get more exposure
208 and 15 seconds is a long time for a commercial. Mr. Booth stated that this is not the
209 only advertising the town will do there has also been additional funds placed into the
210 events to assist with some advertising. There was a short discussion regarding the
211 Blue Grass BBQ being moved to February and that this date was suggested by the
212 Shriners who would be assisting with the BBQ event. **All voted in favor.**
213 **MOTION CARRIED.**

214 **C. *Decision Paper: Atax Funding***

215 Mr. Booth reported that the ATAX committee met the previous week. The Art in the
216 Park/Taste of Surfside Beach funding request originally came from the Events
217 Committee to council; council referred it to ATAX and ATAX approved it and it is
218 now before council. Mr. Booth stated that if it is the desire for council to create
219 additional committees he would like to suggest that the town put funds towards these
220 committees. When committees and council add events the staff needs to find ways to
221 fund them and in the future it would be recommended that this be considered prior to
222 appointing committees. The Beautification Committee had funds allocated to them
223 from almost the beginning and this would need to be considered for other
224 committees as well. Mr. Booth suggested discussing this at the next budget retreat.
225 Mayor Deaton stated that the council has asked the attorney to create an ordinance
226 pertaining to committees and boards and once this ordinance is in place new
227 committees will be funded; they will have a duration time and a mission. They will
228 have all the components they need to operate properly going forward.

229
230 The request for the Art in the Park/ Taste of the Town is \$9,000; there is a request to
231 fund \$3,000 for periodicals at the Surfside Beach library and there is a request for
232 \$1,200 from Surfrider and Guy Daniels for a magnet to promote clean and healthy
233 beaches. It was recommended to separate the approval of each item. Mr. Martin
234 made a motion to approve \$3,000 for periodicals at the library. Mr. Childs seconded
235 the motion. Mr. Martin stated that he is disappointed that the town needs to do this
236 and added that he hopes that the county steps up next year to fund this. Mr. Johnson
237 agreed with Mr. Martin; the town is getting ready to expand the library and the fact
238 that the town needs to fund \$3,000 for periodicals is upsetting. Mr. Johnson stated
239 that he would agree to do this one time. Mr. Samples stated that the county did have
240 to make deep cuts and the town of Surfside Beach has been lucky they have not had
241 to face this yet but may be facing someday. **All voted in favor. MOTION**
242 **CARRIED.** Mr. Truett made a motion to approve funding the Taste of Surfside
243 event. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
244 Mr. Truett made a motion to fund \$1,200 for the Surfrider and Guy Daniels magnets.

245 Mayor Deaton recused himself from voting; he serves on the board of the Guy
246 Daniels foundation. Mr. Childs seconded the motion. Mr. Samples asked for
247 confirmation on which foundation the town was funding. It was confirmed that it
248 was a joint venture. Mr. Samples asked if there has been a contract or agreement
249 drawn up between the joint venture. Mr. Smith stated that there would not
250 necessarily be a contract drawn up in a joint effort and used the Boy Scouts and Girls
251 Scouts joining efforts to sell cookies as an example. Mr. Samples asked for
252 clarification as to who is being funded. Mr. Smith stated that since town funds
253 would be involved council could ask for these groups to have an agreement that
254 binds them together. The town would not want to fund it and then have one group
255 pull out. Mr. Booth stated that Guy Daniels requested the funds and they are
256 receiving a third of the funds from the Surfrider Foundation. Mr. Samples stated that
257 council has decided in the past that efforts that were good did not get funded in the
258 past because they were funded in the past. The minutes from an Atax meeting a year
259 ago the chairman asked that same question relating to Guy Daniels. Mr. Samples
260 added that they are a great group of people and a great effort but the precedent in the
261 past that was established in the past is that once a group gets on their feet then the
262 town no longer funds them. Mr. Booth stated that this is not for their operation but
263 for a magnet to promote clean beaches. Mr. Samples clarified that it was for 2 to 3
264 years worth of magnets. Mr. Childs stated that he attended the Atax meeting and
265 feels that these magnets are a great idea; they will promote a good will for the town
266 and for people to keep the beaches clean. They promote picking up cigarette butts,
267 protecting the dunes, etc. Mr. Martin stated that there are students from Saint James
268 and Scholars Academy at Coastal Carolina that will be assisting with this project and
269 distributing these magnets to hotels in town, rental properties and town hall. Mr.
270 Martin stated that the magnets do not just advertise a group but keeping the beaches
271 clean, keeping lights out to protect the sea turtles etc.; it is not a promotion for an
272 organization. Mr. Martin stated that he does not view this as funding an organization
273 to keep holding their events but as a service to help the towns' beach and is in favor
274 of funding it. Mr. Samples stated that his point is not about the merit of the
275 organizations involved; his point is that they do not need the money. **Ms. Blair, Mr.**
276 **Johnson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Truett, Mayor Deaton and Mr. Childs voted for. Mr.**
277 **Samples voted against. MOTION CARRIED.**

278 **D. *Decision Paper: Installation of Monitoring Wells***

279 Mr. Booth explained that the town had to remove a fuel tank by the police and fire
280 department a year or so ago to accommodate the construction of the fire department
281 and DHEC has required the town to put in monitoring wells. The cost is set by
282 DHEC. The request is to put in three monitoring wells; it is not a budgeted item and
283 it should go against the fire department since it was required to remove the tank to
284 build the fire department. Mr. Truett asked if the wells would be located by the fire
285 station. Mr. Booth stated that they would be located closer to the area where the
286 original fire station is located. Mr. Truett made a motion to fund the installation of
287 the monitoring wells. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Mr. Samples confirmed
288 that the letter from DHEC authorizes an amount of money up to approximately
289 \$10,000 and that this is all they will allow the town to count towards the deductible.
290 Mr. Booth confirmed this was correct. Mr. Samples stated that it is then very
291 important that the town contact SM&E to make sure they fulfill the DHEC

292 requirements for this amount. If they come in more it will not count towards the
293 deductible. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**
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295 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - 5 minutes per speaker**

296 ***Tom Dodge, 1415 North Poplar Drive:*** “This Thursday’s Thanksgiving. I’d like to
297 thank our fire department, our police department and our town employees for the great
298 job they do. I’d also like to thank Mr. Samples for questioning things. At the last
299 council meeting on 11/10 we were told rain or shine there would be a Veteran’s
300 memorial ceremony at the Veteran’s Memorial. My wife and I went there about 1:40
301 PM for the 2 PM service. Soon 20 or more people were there. Low and behold there
302 was no service. This was disgraceful. It could have been moved to council chambers,
303 civic center, library meeting room; anywhere, but have it. This to me was a slap in the
304 face to our brave Veterans. It shows a complete lack of leadership at town hall. Shortly
305 before the new fire station was started the town administrator said he was applying for
306 stimulus funds for that project. He said since it was shovel-ready, it qualified. It has
307 never been confirmed publicly, to my knowledge, did we get it? Will we get it? What is
308 the status? Thank you.”
309

310 ***Joe Zoltak, 414 Pine Drive:*** “I question why the decision was made at this meeting to
311 provide \$3,000 for periodicals for the library when this library is a county library, not
312 exclusively for the use of Surfside residents but for all county south strand residents.
313 Why is the town paying for these periodicals when they’re going to be used by county
314 residents, not just town residents? This action constitutes misappropriation of funds
315 since it is a county library, not a town owned library. Second topic I want to talk about
316 is there was a slide put up here about a dog park in the R-2 district. That discussion
317 failed to advise council that that dog park will include 22 parking spaces. Parking lots
318 are prohibited in the R-2 district. I’m requesting that each of you councilmembers
319 during the council comments discussion advise the public, where you aware of this 22
320 parking space lot in the R-2 district and do you support a parking lot in that area which
321 violates your own ordinances? Is this a continuation of a policy that was discussed on
322 January 22nd 2008 at a council meeting here and that policy was ‘let’s see what we can
323 get away with’ when there was discussion about the parking lot at the corner of Poplar
324 and Surfside Drive. Are these 22 spaces a continuation of that policy and attitude?
325 Please tell the public what you know and what your position is on this. Thank you.”
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327 ***Ann Dodge, 1415 North Poplar Drive:*** “I have two things that I wanted to talk about.
328 At the last council meeting I read a letter asking 5 questions and asking for a response
329 from the council. I received responses from 4 councilmembers. Thank you, thank you,
330 thank you and thank you. I really appreciate it and I want to tell you e-mail is a
331 wonderful thing. Second, my husband and I have lived in this town for 18 years now.
332 We are so grateful to be here. We’re proud of the town, usually, but the one exception
333 was this Veteran’s Day. Both of us are incensed that we did not have a Veteran’s Day
334 ceremony. Veterans don’t get to say ‘hey, it’s raining out; we’re going to cancel out
335 today’. We did that and I think it’s appalling that we did that. If we can’t have
336 something for the Veterans on Veterans Day, we are a sorry, sorry town. Thank you.”
337

338 ***MaryAnn Moss, 412 1st Avenue North:*** “I question the motivation of council in
339 choosing the Horry Independent to advertise the road closing of 1st Avenue North. We
340 have the Sun News, it’s a widely read newspaper and the last time I picked up a Horry

341 Independent was over in Aynor. I don't understand that. I think anything that you're
342 planning to do in this city, the citizens should be made aware as possible and by
343 advertising in the Sun News; most of us read that. I think that any future advertisement
344 to do anything in this town should be advertised in the Sun News and not Horry
345 Independent. I question whether this is a way to circumvent what your plans were and it
346 really upset me. I realize that legally you had done what you were supposed to do but it
347 was not ethical. Thank you."

348
349 **Randle Stevens, 412 1st Avenue North:** "What I'm going to give you is my opinions
350 and facts of what I know on a subject. First I want to quote a, give you a quote from the
351 Declaration of Independence. Government is instituted by men driving their powers
352 from the consent of the governed which is the people, so, keeping that in mind, you all
353 passed a resolution on May 22nd, whereas the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of
354 Surfside Beach, in council duly assembled, have taken the advice of Horry County
355 concerning the public benefits of closing certain roads such as public highways in
356 connection with the expansion of the current Horry County Library located in Surfside.
357 On that resolution you state that you had the advice of Horry County but upon doing a
358 Freedom of Information Act with the City of Surfside, you were unable to produce any
359 documents, whatsoever, documenting that you had advice from Horry County. Upon
360 further investigation with the county officials, with the Director of Public Information,
361 she stated there is absolutely no written documentation anywhere, any shape, any form
362 advising this council to close 1st Avenue North. If there was, it would have been in
363 written form and that was her words. The interim administrator said, in his opinion, that
364 this was a sham and Surfside was trying to pull a fast one. Two other people, one who
365 worked with the infrastructure and the other one worked with the Horry County
366 maintenance said they, in no way, would ever advise Surfside Beach to close a street and
367 the architect even stated the same thing. In no way shape or form did he ever advise the
368 Town of Surfside to close the street nor did Horry County. My question, to this council
369 is why would members of this council with the exception of two councilmembers sign
370 their name on a false document, in my opinion, a public document upon my
371 investigation is a falsehood. This is my opinion, the town officials and administrator
372 have used this control over the access and information in the efforts to transform a
373 resolution and kind of media Trojan horse, an instrument intended to shape public views
374 based on a document that is complete falsehood. I believe, in my opinion, these
375 councilmembers who signed this have violated the public trust of its citizens and if these
376 people, these members of council would sign an untrue document and a falsehood what
377 else would they try? What else could they get with? These are the words of the
378 administrator in the minutes of one of your town council meetings. Let me also mention
379 some other reasons that I don't understand this closing the road. You're going to build a
380 library, 18,000 square feet. Maybe it will be built, I don't know. You're going to have
381 40 computer terminals that would require 40 parking spaces. You're going to have a
382 meeting room and when you got meeting rooms you have home owners associations,
383 you use that library all the time, I know, I live next to it. You're going to have your
384 regular library users and over 30 trees according to your plans will be moved. Those oak
385 trees and all that will be removed from that area. Two dog parks, a walking park, a
386 Veterans Park, a tennis court and 4 kid's park. Zoning code 17-1 says one of your
387 purposes to lessen congestion in the street, securing safety from fire, providing adequate
388 light and forbidding the overcrowding of land and avoiding undue concentration of
389 population. 17-3 says exactly the same thing. What you are trying to do is congest that

390 area. It will become a public nuisance. All councilmembers who signed this resolution,
391 in my opinion, have deceived the voters and the taxpayers of Surfside Beach, whether it
392 was intentional or unintentional by all evidence, it is an untrue document and less than
393 honest, a falsehood and violation of the public trust. Let me read you something from, I
394 believe Ronald Reagan, said this 'it's a matter of trust and it forms the backbone of
395 relationships between community residents and government officials however, we
396 believe public figures, specifically those who seek public figure have a moral obligation
397 to the community from which they come which they take pride in representing. This
398 obligation is simple, if you seek to be a role model act like one, be transparent and
399 honest and most of all (SIC) integrity of yourself out of respect for those ... (time was
400 up). Should you do that, yes."

401
402 **Harry Kohlman, 7th Avenue:** "I'm really happy about all the stuff that's going on, most
403 of the stuff that's going on in town. Thing about the Veterans, that's a real shame.
404 Couple other things I'm not too happy about but 95 percent of the things I'm really
405 happy about and I really love living in this town but I do have a concern. Most of you, I
406 believe, know me, if you don't I spent 27 years in the New York City police department.
407 I rose through the ranks to Deputy Inspector which is one rank above Captain. I had
408 numerous commands from anywhere from 30 to 150 on the list so talking about police
409 stuff I know what I'm talking about. I just want to let everyone know that I have great
410 respect for police officers, I love police officers. Most of my family are police officers
411 so this isn't anything against the police profession. I think they do a great job; you
412 should be paying them at least double if not triple what they get paid down here. I think
413 that's a shame. About a year ago I came to a town council meeting and I wasn't happy
414 about the public safety report. I brought it up and things were changed because, I think,
415 because of what I said because you didn't really say much. Everything was okey, dokey.
416

417 The last public safety report, the town administrator talked about the fire and how the
418 police department information is on the internet but there was something that was
419 happening in town and we really didn't hear about it and if you didn't look on the
420 internet you wouldn't have known about it, there were 27 burglaries last month. One
421 attempted burglary, 28, that's almost one a day. This is not Mayberry by the Sea; it's a
422 serious, serious crime. It's up there with murder, robberies, rapes. Your home is your
423 castle. I don't know if in this State but in New York State someone comes in your home
424 you don't have to retreat, you can kill that person. It's a very, very serious crime.
425 Nothing was mentioned about it. If you looked on the report though it said three
426 burglary arrests, well you know what, that would have been nice to have known if those
427 three guys were committing all these burglaries but we don't know if that's true. I know
428 police officers can't be everywhere and they can't stop every crime and I don't even
429 know if these 3 burglary arrests have anything to do with the 27 burglaries. The way to
430 stop crime is to be out on the street, omnipresence, stopping people, inquiring what
431 people are doing. It's not sitting or standing in the back of a council meeting. People
432 have complained about it. People have noticed it. I don't know why there's a police
433 officer here. There wasn't a year ago. There wasn't one here, I don't think 3 months
434 ago. At one time there was 3 police officers in the back, then it went to 2 police officers
435 in the back and now it's one police officer in the back and we normally had the director
436 here, I don't know, maybe he's not coming any more plus people were inquiring why he
437 wasn't wearing a uniform but the last 2 meetings we had a supervisor in the back, that's
438 a sergeant, I was a supervisor for 22 out of my 27 years. He's the guy making sure the

439 cops are doing what they're supposed to be doing. He's the one who's supposed to
440 making sure, now cops are human beings, some are the hardest working guys in the
441 world, other police officers need to be prodded. They need to be supervised; they need
442 to be looked at. The sergeant back here could be the greatest guy in the world but he
443 needs to be out there. We don't need him standing in the back. We need him to be
444 looking after his police officers and I'll give you an example; because everyone knows I
445 was a police officer, I was a supervisor and naturally they come up to me and they
446 complain. Every cocktail party people come to me and complain about cops well people
447 used to complain to me saying some of the cops in this town, they eat together, 2, 3 4 of
448 them are sitting down and eating together and I always chalked it off that you know
449 some people don't understand what they're talking about. Maybe they just have a gripe
450 they don't like cops until I was sitting down in a restaurant a couple of months ago and
451 not 1, not 2 but 3 police officers sat down and had a meal together, three. There's only 4
452 working, I believe, so, the thing about supervision is very, very important. Who
453 supervises the sergeant? We have a lieutenant, I don't know if he goes out on patrol.
454 Who supervises the lieutenant? I'm just very, very concerned. There has to be some
455 kind of chain of command, there has to be accountability and it's nice that the sergeants
456 here but him or a police officer would be better out on the street. I don't know if there
457 was a specific threat against any councilmember or anybody in the audience and that's
458 why they're here, if it is, then forget what I just said but if somebody, one of you up
459 there, and I'm getting the feeling because there's a group called the concerned citizens if
460 Surfside Beach now all of a sudden, boom, police officers are here. We're not a bunch
461 of militants, we're a bunch of good people who care, we're not the black panthers or
462 anything, we're not going to hurt anybody. Sure we get a little upset, we get excited, we
463 have concerns but we're good people. That's all and everybody have a happy
464 Thanksgiving."

465
466 *Ann Westcott, 413 Cedar Drive North:* "After being made aware of the underhanded
467 tactics being used to close 1st Avenue North, I have heard that 5th Avenue North
468 intersection is going to be redone and I'm just wondering what underhanded tactics
469 you're going to use to put in a bicycle path and don't think for one minute we are not
470 going to be watching to see what you are going to do. Thank you."

471

472 **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

473 *Mr. Childs:* "I don't have much to say tonight. In response I have received some mail
474 about reinstating some of these committees that we had and I see a gentleman back there
475 whose wife works very hard in the Beautification. I would like to see her back. I would
476 like to see that committee reinstated as I would the Special Events; I've had inquiries
477 about that so I'm on your side. I hope we bring them back, I think they were very useful
478 so let's keep our fingers crossed and see if we can't get them all back. Thank you."

479

480 *Mr. Samples:* "First I want to say have a happy Thanksgiving. I have to say I agree. I
481 don't know if a personal threat has been made against anybody up here but this is a small
482 town. It still is a small town. We are neighbors and I would like, it is fairly recent that
483 we've had, felt we needed protection. I, for one, think your time could be better served
484 out on the street. If, in fact, we advertised in the Horry Independent; I'm familiar with
485 the paper, got to be honest with you, not many people probably are, in town, I don't
486 know why we wouldn't have. We're advertising for volunteers an awful lot now for our
487 committees in town and that's because we need volunteers on our committees. In the

488 old days we didn't have to do that. We used the marquee. I think we need to bring, I
489 think our committees are fine the way they are. I don't want to make them too
490 bureaucratic; I'm afraid that's where some people want to go with this. I think it's fine
491 having council people serving with citizens in town, we've done it for 40 years. I don't
492 know why we want to change it. There are some things in town that need to be
493 improved but change for change sake I don't get it. Have a happy Thanksgiving."

494
495 **Mr. Truett:** "The Veteran's Memorial. I don't know what to say but I will try to
496 apologize for not having that service. I was the guy who sat here and said 'rain or shine'
497 we would have a service and by God, rain or shine we should have had one. I was there
498 at 2 o'clock and I saw a bunch of faces with nothing. There was no call for it, I agree, I
499 spoke to a lady and says you know our Veteran's didn't have the opportunity to go
500 inside when it was raining; they had to do their job and we should have done ours and I
501 apologize."

502
503 **Mr. Martin:** "To follow up a little bit on what Mr. Childs said. Council received a
504 number of pieces of information about the various boards and committees and had a
505 brief discussion before the meeting with our attorney Mr. Smith and he's requesting, and
506 I think it's a good idea, that we have a workshop regarding boards and committees and I
507 guess right now I'm requesting that our administrator look at that possibility and
508 schedule a workshop as soon as we can. There are a number of boards and committees
509 and some that have been disbanded and perhaps need to be restarted so I'm requesting
510 that we have a workshop regarding that topic."

511
512 **Mayor Deaton:** "Well I would hope that we would have an ordinance ready. Let me
513 check with our attorney here, Mr. Smith, tell us what we would need is an ordinance in
514 place to hold that workshop so that we can have a proper discussion or to give guidance
515 towards the ordinance if that's what your intent is, Mr. Martin."

516
517 **Mr. Smith:** "Within the last several weeks I've spoken to several of you about this
518 particular issue and kind of where we are is which is going to come first the chicken or
519 the egg. Are we going to do the ordinance and then try to decide, I think as councilman
520 Samples just said, would councilmembers be available or be allowed to serve on
521 committees. I could write ordinances that allowed them to, only to find that 6 people
522 feel that that would be inappropriate or I could write it disallowing it only to find that the
523 majority feels that it is appropriate for them, so, it's kind of a chicken in an egg situation.
524 We currently have 7 statutory committees, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of
525 Appeals, Atax, Stormwater, Election Commission, Building Board of Appeals and
526 Board of Fee Appeals and then we have those 2 committees that were just kind of
527 created, that were adhoc committees; The Beautification Committee and one that started
528 out as a Pier Committee then it became a Pier and Events Committee later to evolve into
529 a Pier, Recreation, Parks Committee so I think it would be most beneficial if we had a
530 workshop to discuss which committees council is in favor of; what your perception of
531 those committees are then I could draft ordinances specific to each committee and they
532 would look a lot alike. You're not going to have a 5 page ordinance for one committee
533 and a half page ordinance for another committee. It would list their mission, how the
534 committee members are elected, how long they serve. For example it's been proposed
535 that members should be screened and interviews should be required, credentials should
536 be checked prior to appointment. I don't know if that's anything that you're interested

537 in, that was just something that was provided to me but before I go off and crack the egg
538 and put all that into an ordinance maybe we ought to talk a little bit about it.”

539
540 **Mayor:** “I think that’s reasonable and do you understand Mr. Administrator? Does that
541 satisfy you Mr. Martin; Mr. Childs are you ok with that? Ok, we’re on the right track.”

542
543 **Mr. Johnson:** “I’m going to make this short and sweet and very quick, hopefully.
544 Thank you for coming out. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. The Fire
545 Department station, the funding of that is based on the stimulus package coming out of
546 DC and from my recollection we have not heard anything from that at this point. I agree
547 there should have been a Veteran’s Memorial ceremony rain or shine. The Blue Grass
548 ceremony or festival; it doesn’t make any sense to have it on February 20th. Freedom of
549 speech is a great thing, ladies and gentlemen. I’ll just pass that on and the committees
550 are great as well and the town of Surfside Beach is doing a lot of great things. Thank
551 you.”

552
553 **Ms. Blair:** “First of all thanks for coming out. A lot of great comments tonight, as
554 always. Just want to wish good luck to Mr. Booth on his quest for the grant for the 3rd
555 Avenue property. I think that would be a great movement to get that land and to get
556 another park there for us. He didn’t touch on the Downtown Beautification efforts but I
557 just wanted to kind of keep you updated that efforts are moving along to try to get some
558 plans and to get some ideas. I met Mr. Booth and Ty and Brian last week at Coastal
559 Carolina University to listen to some students make some presentations. Most of those
560 that we listened to will graduate in December and made presentations on their idea for
561 projects that were very grandiose but not a lot of what we saw there were anything that
562 we’re really looking for but what we did find is that there’s some very talented people at
563 Coastal and some very talented young people who have great ideas about how to
564 improve and so Mr. Booth did speak with the professor there and asked about any help
565 from the students with some ideas for us to look at on down the road so just wanted to
566 throw that out so that you know that we’re moving ahead and looking for ideas and
567 looking for some plans to begin bringing those things together to bring back and show
568 the residents. I agree on the committees and I do think we will get working on those. I
569 think Mr. Smith makes a very good point that just rather than possibly waste time
570 coming up with things that aren’t exactly what we’re looking for let’s talk about it first
571 and other than that have a great Thanksgiving. Eat lots, enjoy it and then sign up for that
572 race the end of January. It will be a good way to get rid of it. Thanks for coming and
573 have a safe drive home.”

574
575 **Mayor Deaton:** “I’d like to wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving and focus on all the
576 things that we have to be thankful for and there are a ton of them out there. Thank you
577 for coming.”

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10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Truett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. **All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Approved: December 8, 2009

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

K. Allen Deaton, Mayor

Joseph P. Martin, Town Council

Vicki W. Blair, Town Council

James S. Truett, Mayor Pro Tem

Douglas F. Samples, Town Council

Mark L Johnson, Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Town Council

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. This meeting was transcribed by Clerk Pinnell . 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.