



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION JUNE 27, 2016 ♦ 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 27, 2016 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Childs called Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2016 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss various employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee or employees, and to discuss the appointment of a person or persons to a public body. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Mr. Johnson moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to end executive session at 6:34 p.m. Mr. Stevens second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions or directives to the town administrator will be presented during the business portion of the meeting. The executive session discussion was not finished and the session will continue at the end of the regular meeting.

Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Planning Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Keziah; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- A. Invocation: Pastor Oakie Landers from Pine Drive Gospel Church gave the invocation.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. i. Executive Session and Regular Meeting June 13, 2016, and ii. Special Meeting June 17, 2016. Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the June 13, 2016 executive session and regular meeting minutes, and the June 17, 2016 special meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Pellegrino second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker)

Ms. Linda Chrisman, 10th Avenue North. I live at 10th Avenue North. I'd like to make comments regarding Agenda Item 8.B. As a resident and one of the many members of the senior center on 10th Avenue North, I've heard many rumors floating about as to what is to happen there. I've heard the center is going to move; close down; negotiations are underway to purchase the side lot for parking, and/or negotiations are underway to rent the lot for parking. I ask why is council [sic] making the decision so difficult. Purchase the lot for parking. It would make economical [sic] sense, as you already own the lot the building is sitting on. While you were out campaigning for the seats you now hold, I personally spoke to many of you about the senior center. Your feedback to me was that you wanted to see changes for the good in our town. This is one of those changes that needs to happen. All of you say that the safety and well-being of our seniors should be a priority. Keeping the center at this location,

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54 adding the lot next to it for parking would be a win-win for the town and the seniors. The center is open
55 five days a week; provides a meal, and social interactions for them. If this center closes, or moved, 85-
56 percent of these seniors would be stuck at home. At the end of the day, any one of us could suffer a
57 reversal of fortune and become one of the financially challenged seniors who need the helping hand this
58 center provides. All of the opinions I just expressed are solely my own. Thank you.

59
60 Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North. Good evening Council, residents. I would like to speak on
61 the item under 7.D., Poplar Drive. It was mentioned about singling out one street because of safety
62 issues. There are eight major streets from north to south in this town. There are 31 streets east to
63 west. I feel like just to single out one street and make it an issue instead of surveying; if you're gonna
64 do a survey, do a survey of all of 'em, cause there's many thoroughfares through here and people take
65 shortcuts. To give you an example, Hollywood Drive is very unsafe. I think they run wide open from 5th
66 Avenue all the way to Surfside Drive and slam on brakes. They do that. There's kids that play out there,
67 too. I think if we're gonna do it for one, we need to do it for all. So, look into it. Not just single any one
68 street out, because I feel like it's unfair and I took the liberty to go to the city map, and which I have
69 with me here today, and I went out and I rode around some places. I kind of watched what was going
70 on. There's a lot of 4-way stops in this town already, and to me, the 4-way stops create wrecks; create
71 accidents. Second Avenue and Hollywood South; people run that stop sign all the time. I sit there and
72 counted five people day before yesterday run the stop sign. Never even looked either way. One of 'em
73 almost took out a motorcycle. Luckily, he was paying attention; defensive driving. So, I'm asking
74 council, you know, if you want to look at some safety issues on streets, let's look at all the streets in this
75 town and not just the one, and focus on that. Thank you.

76
77 Nancy Roper, 14th Avenue South. I want to thank [Mr. Courtney] for what he's doing to make
78 our area of town safer. I live right on the corner of 14th Avenue South and Hollywood. I have talked to
79 [Mr. Courtney] about that also, and I do think he's interested in other streets in the town. We just have
80 several; many accidents in that area. So, I just want to thank him for working on that area.

81
82 Nicole Burke, 14th Avenue South. I would like to thank council for pursuing the work that they're
83 doing for the safety on Poplar Drive. Thank you.

84
85 Holly Watson, North Oak Drive. I want to talk about Item 7.B., our budget. I was at the budget
86 meeting, and I was concerned about something I heard about the pier expansion of the restaurant. It's
87 my understanding that we're going to spend \$45,000 in engineering to expand the pier restaurant with
88 the engineers [sic.] I would like to suggest that the people who are renting our restaurant do their own
89 design and their own engineering, and bring us a plan, since they know what they want, and then, let
90 our engineers look at that. That'll cost us about maybe five [sic.] if we have to pay that. The reason for
91 that is we're not going to get the revenue from the restaurant. They are. If we do expand the
92 restaurant, then I suggest we renegotiate their lease so that their payments will compensate for our
93 construction, if in fact, we're going to pay for the construction, too. I want the town to have the benefit,
94 not a business owner. It's only fair, since it's taxpayer money. Thank you.

95
96 Shelby Smith, Cedar Drive North. I am a member of the senior center and also their volunteer
97 gardener for the past ten years. I'm here tonight to speak on that item B, and all of my thoughts and
98 speaking is as a resident, member, and citizen, and not in any way part of the senior advisory committee,
99 of which I am a member. I wanted to ask you to continue to have the scheduling for July 12th to discuss
100 the senior center and its present situation with regard to parking, and also the request I made at the
101 June 13th meeting where I asked for two options to either lease the property having the town participate
102 or the best option, to have the town give the land that the senior center sits on to the county so that the
103 old building that the county owns now, they would also own the whole premises, and I would like to have
104 that on the agenda for the discussion. The town clerk already has it on the agenda for July 12th, so I'm
105 hoping we can proceed with that. There will be factual information presented at that meeting. There will
106 be seven, or so, speakers that will present different insights as to the significance of that senior center

107 staying right where it is, and that's why I'm here this evening. There will be facts presented that there is
108 growth potential for that senior center at its present location on 10th Avenue North. So, I appreciate that
109 scheduling and Ray Fontaine, the executive director of the Horry County Council on Aging, will be at that
110 meeting and we look forward to it. Thank you very much.

111
112 Vickie Cromier, 15th Avenue South. I'd just like to speak on Item 7.B. Poplar Drive. I just want
113 to thank the council for taking an interest in the safety of our citizens and visitors by pursuing the project
114 of Poplar Drive. Thank you.

115
116 **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

117
118 **A. Surfside Area Rotary Check Presentation, past-President Walter Warren.** Mr.
119 Warren, Mr. Howard Barnard, in-coming president Adam Parness from the Rotary Club presented Mayor
120 Childs with a \$1,500 check to be used for recreation events. Mr. Warren highlighted some of the Rotary's
121 activities and charities supported in this area and said they look forward to continuing its 30-year
122 association with the town. Mayor Childs thanked Mr. Warren for the donation, and led applause for the
123 Rotary's work and contribution.

124
125 **B. Community Rating Service Presentation, Director Morris.** Ms. Morris presented a
126 certificate to Mayor Childs that recognizes achievement of Level 5 on the Community Rating Service
127 scale. The achievement will result in up to a 25-percent savings in flood insurance premiums for property
128 in flood zones. *(Applause)*

129
130 **C. Department Reports.** Mayor Childs said the department reports were in the packages and
131 asked if there were any questions for the directors. There were no questions. Reports for events;
132 finance; fire; planning, building and zoning; police, and public works are attached.

133
134 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner's written report is attached. Ms. Fellner said that Mr.
135 Ott requested in a previous meeting that employee commendations be read for the public. Therefore,
136 she read the commendation to the town's first responders that resulted in the successful rescue and
137 resuscitation of a 1-year old child that fell into a swimming pool. Chief Keziah reported that the baby is
138 out of the hospital and will make a full recovery. *(Applause)* Mr. Ott thanked Ms. Fellner very much for
139 the report. Ms. Fellner replied, you are welcome. Mr. Stevens referred to the Atlantic Restaurant Group's
140 lease renewal, and asked if the term actually ended in 2032. Ms. Fellner said that was correct. The lease
141 began in 2012; the Group has renewal options for four 5-year terms that must be exercised more than
142 180 days before the 5-year end date. The written notice was received 29 days before the 180 day
143 deadline.

144
145 Mayor Childs excused Chief Keziah at 6:57 to return to work.

146
147 **7. BUSINESS**

148
149 **A. Reconsider All Motions taken at June 17, 2016 Special Meeting, Mayor Childs.**
150 Mayor Childs said a request had been made to reconsider all motions adopted at the June 17, 2016
151 special meeting. He asked if there was a motion. No motion was offered.

152
153 **B. Second Reading Ordinance #16-0825 to adopt FY2016-2017 Municipal Budget,**
154 **Director King.** Mayor Childs said without discussion or objection, was there a motion to adopt second
155 reading of Ordinance #16-0825 to adopt Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Municipal Budget. The decision paper
156 and ordinance are on file. Mr. Ott moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #16-0825 with the
157 amendments as adopted the June 17th special meeting. Mr. Stevens second. Mr. Ott thought council
158 approved an expenditure for a forensic audit. Mr. Pellegrino said \$20,000 was approved for a work
159 study, but no funds were approved for a forensic audit.

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Mr. Ott moved to amend the budget to add \$20,000 to the current audit amount of \$30,000 for a total of \$50,000 to perform a forensic audit. Mr. Stevens second. Mr. Pellegrino asked for an explanation of a forensic audit. Mr. Ott explained that a forensic audit would follow the money path, to determine where money has been going, review all revenue received, every check written, whether for supplies or payroll, and review the whole system so all rumors will die at that point. All voted in favor. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said the budget was adopted.

Mr. Johnson called *point of order*, saying that the vote was on the amendment, not the primary motion. Mayor Childs said that was right, and called for a vote on the adoption of the budget.

Mr. Stevens wanted to ensure that the work study funds were included in the budget. Mayor Childs said yes, they were included. Mr. Stevens moved to amend the budget to require that Town Council perform a quarterly review of the budget. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.**

There were no other amendments offered. Mayor Childs called for a vote on the primary motion as amended. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, and Stevens voted in favor. Councilmember Johnson voted against. **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.**

C. Second Reading Ordinance #16-0828 to adopt State Building Codes, Director Morris. Mayor Childs said without objection or discussion, was there a motion to adopt second reading of Ordinance #16-0828. Ms. Morris presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #16-0828 as presented. Mr. Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. South Poplar Drive, Councilmember Courtney. Mr. Courtney presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. He said this was not a speed issue. It was a safety issue. He understood Mr. Shore's comments that all streets should be considered. The town would like to take every road, if it could. We can only take one at a time. South Poplar has been watched for over two years now. It has been a battle with the State. From 10th South to Melody Lane, it is a straight run with no stop signs. There have been numerous accidents, including overturned vehicles. The town cannot wait until there is a casualty so the State will do something. He wanted to move forward with this. Mr. Stevens said he drove the entire length of South Poplar Drive, and cited the various intersections with stop signs. There are two areas where speeders fly down that road. One is between 4th Avenue and 10th Avenue, and the second is between 10th Avenue and Melody Lane. He understood that folks say there are other unsafe roads. Those can be considered at a later time. Right now, the folks on this street need to be taken care of. Mr. Pellegrino said during the last conversation about Poplar Drive, council discussed asking the state again for assistance and asked if the state was contacted. Mr. Courtney said the state was contacted numerous times, and the officials do not want to take any action at this time on this road. On Memorial Day weekend, there were 2,074 vehicles per day travelling down South Poplar Drive according to the town's study. Mr. Courtney reiterated it was a safety issue; not a speed issue. He explained how people used South Poplar to travel to homes, and businesses located in the area. Mr. Pellegrino agreed the problem needed to be addressed. Council needed to be aware of how many roads were adopted, because a small section of 3rd Avenue South was recently adopted for business development reasons. Years ago, the town adopted Ocean Boulevard. The roads are costly to maintain and/or repair, if and when a town road has a cave in or there is a hurricane. The town is responsible for repairing and replacing its roads when things happen. Mr. Courtney believed the town currently takes care of state roads within its limits. He eventually would like to control all the roads in town. South Poplar is in good condition now. Mr. Ott agreed with Mr. Courtney. There are a few other areas that need to be evaluated for stop signs. He did not understand why the state would not put stop signs on the roads at the town's request. He asked if rules could be suspended to allow Mr. Adair to comment.

213 Mr. Stevens moved to suspend rules to allow Mr. Adair to address Town Council. Mr. Ott second.
214 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Adair said the South Carolina Department of Transportation
215 (DOT) does not do a lot on town owned roads. Ocean Boulevard is of particular concern, because it is
216 influenced by the ocean tides. Poplar Drive should not need resurfacing for 10-15 years, and will not be
217 affected by the ocean. DOT does not want the town to put signs on its roads. It was very difficult to
218 control the town's destiny when it was subject to DOT rules. DOT's engineering staff does not think stop
219 signs are necessary, and that is all the justification DOT needs. The town has taken over Ocean
220 Boulevard and 16th Avenue North, which were designated as State Road SC-155 at one time. The bridge
221 needed to be replaced at 10th Avenue North and the way the town accomplished that was to take over
222 the road. This past winter, a special allocation was made to resurface some state roads in town. Some
223 state roads are not acceptable to take over, but in this particular case, he had no issues with accepting
224 South Poplar Drive. Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Ott second. All voted in
225 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

226
227 Mr. Ott moved to direct staff to contact DOT to advise it that the town wants to accept Poplar
228 Drive from Surfside Drive to Melody Lane into its infrastructure. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor.
229 **MOTION CARRIED.**

230
231 **E. Appointments: i. Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful (open membership) Volunteers:**
232 **Ms. Dora Eaddy, Ms. Terri Lauer, Mr. Al Lauer; ii. Board of Zoning Appeals (1 vacancy and 1**
233 **term expiring) Volunteer: Mr. Darrell Willm; iii. Town Council Alternate for Myrtle Beach**
234 **Regional Economic Development Corporation, Councilmember Stevens.** Mr. Stevens moved to
235 appoint Ms. Dora Eaddy, Ms. Terri Lauer, and Mr. Al Lauer to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful
236 Committee; Mr. Darrell Willm to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and Councilmember Courtney to serve as
237 an alternate representative to the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation. Mr.
238 Johnson second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

239
240 **F. Motions and/or directions to Town Administrator from Executive Session.** There
241 were no motions or directions for the town administrator.

242
243 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.**

244
245 **A. Guy Daniels Surfoff Event, Councilmember Stevens.** Mr. Stevens introduced Mr. Mikey
246 Pruitt, director of the Guy Daniels Memorial Foundation. Mr. Pruitt said the foundation is a 501(C)3
247 nonprofit; 96.8-percent of the funds raised are used for programs. It cost less than 4-percent of funds
248 raised to operate the foundation. He explained how the Surfoff event was developed in 1999 after the
249 unexpected death of Guy Daniels, and how it has grown into an event that draws between 2,000 and
250 3,000 to town. Scholarships are given to Horry and Georgetown county secondary and college level
251 students; as of this meeting over \$100,000 has been granted. The foundation's membership all grew up
252 in Surfside Beach and they are good stewards of Surfside Beach. The foundation helped fund beach
253 showers; signage along the beach, and smoker's outposts. Partnerships have also been formed with Surf
254 Rider Foundation to educate visitors about respecting and caring for our beach. The town is one of the
255 biggest sponsors, so it has prominent placement on all of the marketing materials. (He displayed the t-
256 shirt, and poster for this year's event.) The foundation provides a web cam at www.surffoff.com that has
257 about 600 hits a day from people that want to look at Surfside Beach at 13th Avenue South. This year
258 will include the normal surf contest and a pro-am event, so they are attracting higher quality surfers from
259 Florida to Virginia because of the cash prizes. This will bring even more qualifying tourists to Surfside
260 Beach. Mr. Pruitt said thank you to Surfside Beach for the help. Mr. Stevens asked if the Surfoff had
261 ever done a study to determine the total revenue brought in from accommodations, restaurants, etc.
262 during an event. Mr. Pruitt said no, but they may be able to manage some estimates. Mayor Childs said
263 there are a lot of people that view the webcam. He asked if there was a lot of feedback from it. Mr.
264 Pruitt said yes; within seconds he knows the webcam is down (*laughter.*) People who come to visit will
265 go to the webcam to relive their beach experience. Mr. Ott said the Guy Daniels Surfoff had put Surfside

266 Beach on the map with all the surfers and beach goers all around the country. He thinks the Surfiff
267 promotes the town better than some of the other entities in the area that publicize the town's name. Mr.
268 Pruitt said thank you. Mr. Ott said thank you for everything you've done all through these years. Mr.
269 Courtney thought it was a great event, and it brought young people to our community. It is a great
270 program for young people that live in our community. He thanked Mr. Pruitt very much. It was fantastic.
271 Mr. Pruitt said it was the foundation's pleasure. They all love Surfside, too. Thank you.

272
273 **B. Senior Citizens Committee directions re South Strand Senior Center,**
274 **Councilmember Stevens, Liaison.** Mr. Stevens asked Town Council to defer the South Strand Senior
275 Center issues that were brought forward by Mr. Shelby Smith to the Ralph Magliette Senior Citizens
276 Committee for evaluation and a recommendation to Town Council. Perhaps the committee can meet with
277 Mr. Fontaine to gain a better understanding of the situation. **TOWN COUNCIL CONCURRED.** Mr. Ott
278 said the senior center is controlled almost solely by Horry County and Mr. Fontaine; not the Town of
279 Surfside Beach. We will continue to do whatever we can, but he knows from attending the center with
280 Mr. Magliette that it was difficult to deal with Horry County. Seniors did have the town's support
281 regarding this situation.

282
283 **C. Any matters of concern of information to be discussed by Town Council.** Mr.
284 Stevens asked for consensus from Town Council to bring the photographs to chambers for the next 10 to
285 12 meetings, and also to place them in town hall, so they would be easily accessible to citizens who did
286 not get to attend the DOT meeting on Highway 17 upgrades. **TOWN COUNCIL CONCURRED.** Mr.
287 Johnson added that DOT had the photographs available on line at www.scdot.gov. Mr. Stevens asked if
288 that link could be added to the town's website. Ms. Fellner said the link could be added, but she was
289 made aware at the DOT meeting that many people did not have computers. The renderings can certainly
290 be placed in chambers.

291
292 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)

293
294 Nicole Burke, 14th Avenue South. Due to a safety issue in our HOA, we applied for a permit to
295 cut both an oak [tree] and a holly [tree] back a while ago that sits in front of Unit 12 and 13. We were
296 not granted a permit for the oak, but we were granted a permit for the holly. When our tree people were
297 there to cut it, it ended up, the police was there, a board member, our property manager, councilmen,
298 total of probably eight to ten people. We got a phone call from, our property manager called, or went to
299 the town administrator, not town administrator, to [Ms. Morris's] office, and the code enforcer said
300 looked at the permit and said cut it. So, the police said okay, cut it. Five minutes later, don't cut it. So,
301 this went back and forth. Long story short, the tree did not get cut. We spent probably an hour paying
302 tree people at \$300 an hour to do this. They're just standing there waiting around. I don't know exactly
303 what went wrong. But it seems to me that the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing in the
304 town. We've got a permit that we applied for and paid for. We should've been able to cut that tree that
305 day. Bottom line is, it's really sad that the town is so confused that when somebody gives you a permit
306 to cut, somebody overrides it; it doesn't make sense to me. [Ms. Morris] is the one that approved the
307 permit. She should've been able to do her job. Let her do her job. Somebody overrode that. Now, the
308 bottom line is we're gonna proceed with this. We have a permit. We paid for it. Two weeks from now
309 we have people coming back on the property to cut some pines. We're gonna get that holly cut. If we
310 can't do that we have no other option but to get legal action. I took some pictures. It's a safety issue.
311 I'll pass 'em around. (** walked away from microphone) It took an hour. Cut it, don't cut it. Sad day.
312 It's a lot of wasted resources. It is a safety issue for our homeowners. Thank you for your time.

313
314 Nancy Roper, 14th Avenue South. I am in Unit 12, and I have these trees a few feet from my
315 front door hanging over my house. I can accept where Surfside wants to protect the trees. I love trees
316 and I've accepted Surfside's position to keep the large tree. But, we can we please take down the tree,
317 the smaller holly tree, because that tree is growing into the big tree destroying it. What we want to do is
318 take that smaller tree out and at least take care of the big tree. Trim it, take care of it, and then be able

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319 to keep an eye on it and see how it goes. I'm just asking council to please do that. It's a safety issue. It
320 is over my home. It is buckling the sidewalks and it's affecting a lot of homeowners here. Thank you
321 very much.

322
323 Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive. Well, let me see. You all had a special budget meeting
324 and you nitpicked the budget to pieces. Then you come in here tonight and you add \$50,000 to the
325 budget for one forensic audit, which we have an audit every year anyway, so I don't really see why that
326 is needed, and a staff study. You know, I've served on many, many boards over the years, and I never
327 went in the first couple of meetings and started trying to change this and change that and do this. I sat
328 and I listened to see how things had been done; the way that things, you know, maybe they wanted to
329 change or whatever they wanted to do. But, I listened for a few meetings before I started making
330 suggestions to start changing this and that and the other. So, I think it would be a good suggestion for
331 especially the newbies here to sit and listen, maybe, and learn a little bit before you start making all
332 these changes, because you're really making yourself look very uneducated. Thank you.

333
334 Mr. Steve Shore, 1st Avenue North. I think Ms. Johnson pretty much said it all before I got up
335 here. I didn't go to the meeting, but I listened to the first half of it, [and stopped] because I thought it
336 was very disrespectful the way the council handled and talked to Ms. Fellner, Ms. King, [Ms.] Ellis, and it
337 was a total embarrassment to listen to. As elected officials of this town, you are held to a higher
338 standard. No official has the right or should admonish another and I just don't feel that should be
339 tolerated. Not in private, not in meetings, or any other time. It's obvious that the way our council has its
340 own agenda, or whatever it is for lack of a better word. I have here some of the audit that was done for
341 the town by our auditors in Greenville, South Carolina. It states unmodified opinion of financial
342 statements, GF&H (Green Finney & Horton), strong financial condition as of June 30, 2015. That's just
343 one thing. Another is that Mr. [Phillips] concluded by saying that his firm represents many small cities
344 throughout the state. He was very pleased to work with Ms. Fellner, Ms. King and staff who all did an
345 excellent job for the town. He was confident that the staff was providing good information to council.
346 Mayor Samples said that Ms. King is one of the best. That's what I have on that. I just felt like the way
347 it was handled was totally out of character for people that's supposed to know better. I don't know how
348 many people that you guys are CPAs, but I know that I went back and reviewed the minutes, and what
349 was said, but it was very well looked at [sic.] I have another issue and it concerns councilmember's
350 spouses serving on committee other than *ad hoc*. If a council [member's] spouse is serving on a
351 committee, for example P&Z, P&Z appeals board [sic.] election committee; to me that's a direct conflict.
352 I just think that council ought to look at this. Something ought to be done. It's an issue, because like I
353 said on *ad hoc* committees I thoroughly understand. Beautification, *stormwater committee, the seniors
354 committee, just any other committee other than ones that are in direct conflict with the Town Council.
355 I'm just one person, and like I said, I see and I listen to a lot things. We all have different ideas and
356 different opinions. I respect that. I respect each and every one of you. I'm not here to disrespect you.
357 But, I'm just saying things that I noticed and am pointing out because the late Councilman Ralph
358 Magliette told me more times than one that when he wanted to know something that he went and
359 researched it. He got the answers. Then he would go ask the question, and he was satisfied with it. If
360 there's any question about what's going on in town business, please go research it. I've never went to
361 Ms. Fellner or anybody else's office and asked for something that I didn't get just as a normal citizen,
362 because that's what I am. A citizen of this town, which I love, and we want to keep a reputation, not the
363 one we're getting, as I've heard some people quote Clown Town. I don't want that. I want the one that
364 the late Councilmen Magliette said, a gem. This town is a gem. It really is. We've got a lot of amenities
365 here and we've got a lot of great people here that do a good job in this town. The administration, the
366 public works department, all like that. So, I just wanted to bring that to light. Thank you. (*Clerk's Note:
367 *The stormwater committee is a statutory committee required under the Federal NPDES Permit.*)

368
369 Ms. Judy Kidd, 11th Avenue North. First of all, I disagree with the previous statements, because I
370 think to continue to do things as they've always been done is a travesty, especially when you have been
371 running on transparency in government. I think when you have fresh eyes looking on something and

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372 there are questions asked and answers are not given it causes one to question, and if new councilmen
373 were not given the information they were requesting at the time they requested it, then I agree with Mr.
374 Ott. There needs to be a detailed look at what is going on. After all, this is the money of the public. It
375 is taxpayer dollars. It is not for private use, and so it's up to each of you sitting there to make certain
376 that that's what happens. There's also a question I have about the administrator's report. Is it possible
377 to have that report available on line, since it's not being read in the minutes [sic], because most of us
378 listen to find out what is going on, and it would help to have that either read into the recording or to
379 have it available on line for review, because more people than just you guys need to know what's going
380 on in this town. I'd like to commend [Ms. Morris] for that CRS, because I just found out it results in a 20-
381 percent reduction in flood insurance, if you are in the flood zone. So that's something that everybody
382 should know. Thank you.
383

384 Mr. Stan Wrobel, 3rd Avenue South. I'd also like to make a comment about departmental reports.
385 Several meetings ago Councilman Ott requested that the administrator provide a written report prior to
386 the meeting. That's fine. But, the residents here are left in the dark. A lot of us come here to get
387 information, and now we're not getting it. Today was a surprise when the other department heads were
388 here and there's nothing said by them. Everything has to be; if you can get a copy of this, you have to
389 read it. Well, I'm sorry. I had this (*held up public information packet*) since the beginning of the
390 meeting, and I still didn't get through it all, but there's no administrator's report in here. I tried to focus
391 on budget, which is decent. It's \$50,000 (***) which is great. So, I'd just like to make a request that the
392 reports become read to the public again. Of course, you're all entitled to a written report. That's your
393 right. But us residents also deserve to hear it. Thank you. (*Applause*)
394

395 Ms. Carol Lucas, Cypress Drive. I'm a retired CPA. I've written several audit reports, and
396 received them later on in my later jobs. I've attended all the budget meetings, and this is not a criticism
397 to those who listen to the meeting, but there's something about being at the meeting. The interaction
398 between council and staff and so forth. In my opinion, council behaved as gentlemen, and I just thought
399 it was important to say that. The other thing is this forensic accounting. That is quite a step from a
400 regular opinion audit. I don't know that you'll get it for \$20,000. It's very, very tedious and time
401 consuming. The thing that bothers me about this is it is such an important step, I wish that that had
402 been brought up earlier so that you all could have discussed it, instead of adopting something. Perhaps
403 if you had talked to your accountant, your CPA, and so forth. It's apparently a done deal, though. Thank
404 you.
405

406 Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive. I do have to say that I don't think that any of this is
407 personal. I think we're all in this together. We all belong to the same town. We're all on the same side.
408 We just want transparency in government. I do have to say that I'm disappointed when I went on line
409 and I found out that bid tabulations, open bidding for anything that goes on in the town, the last thing
410 that I see is from the year 2013. This is three years later. I would like for you to revisit the way that we
411 put things out for bid in order to provide jobs, have an open marketplace, and drive the cost of what we
412 buy down. In an open bidding situation, you've got more competition and so the town saves money. So,
413 I would like to propose for you to revisit your ordinances that would be more like Myrtle Beach. Every
414 month Myrtle Beach has got a full page of things open for bid. Everything from office supplies to
415 janitorial services to bullets, to everything you could imagine. So, I would like for us to follow the same
416 venue and see if we couldn't get some more competition into our town. There would be new businesses,
417 new business licenses. Give everybody an opportunity to bid on our business. That's number one. The
418 second thing that I see in town is there are no sponsors. It seems to me that our events could be more
419 profitable. I see in this month in particular, we lost \$7,000 on our events. Perhaps if we had Coke or
420 Pepsi or some of the big sponsors we might be able to pull that out of the hole a little bit. I'd like you to
421 think about that and maybe encourage our recreation or events person to may solicit some sponsors.
422 Maybe some sportswear people, some suntan people, somebody like that could possibly do a sponsorship
423 with us. Kick in some money so that our events won't cost us \$100,000 a year or so. Thank you. Just
424 some ideas. Again, I appreciate all of you speaking your minds. I do know that it's a trying time when

425 you have a budget crunch, but I think we can get back on track, with some suggestions about how to
426 tighten it down. Thank you.

427

428 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

429

430 Mr. Johnson. Mr. Mayor, I have no comments at this time.

431

432 Mr. Pellegrino. Thank you very much for coming. We've got a big crowd. Got a lot of public
433 comments, so we do appreciate your input. It always makes us think of all aspects of any issue, and that
434 helps a lot. We did pass the budget tonight, which is good. The opposing side is there's some stuff in
435 the budget that's not good. But, just because it's in the budget doesn't necessarily mean that we have to
436 spend it. So, we can still make informed decisions on how to spend that money down the road. Thank
437 you very much for coming. Have a great night.

438

439 Mr. Courtney. I'd like to say I understand your concerns with the [special budget] meeting. Not
440 too many people showed up to the meeting, but you have to be here to see the demeanor of the people,
441 and see what was going on. I'm not too happy with the budget to be quite honest with you. There was
442 a lot of holes in this budget, and I got elected by the people to represent them and to watch their tax
443 dollars. When I get a budget, I look at it and I see other in there for \$16,100, there's no justification for
444 this. There's a problem there. I have a problem with that and that's why I'm bringing it to your
445 attention. Nobody was disrespectful. Listen to the meeting. I want you to listen to the entire meeting.
446 It will take you about eight hours [sic.]

447

448 Mr. Ott. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The big change that I asked for was the administrator's report
449 in writing before the meeting, which she did give me and it was after a little bit of discussion. It was like
450 pulling teeth, but it helps me. It helps me a lot, and I think it helps everybody to get to see it, so I could
451 ask a question at a later time. They asked about the forensic audit. I did say that we do have \$30,000
452 already in the budget for an audit, which could be used with the forensic audit \$20,000. I'm not a CPA or
453 anything like that, but I see as Councilman Courtney says, a lot of holes in here. I can just throw one at
454 you: 2016, this current year, in the budget there was \$25,000 given to Lanier Parking for beautification
455 of the parking lot. I can't find where it went. So, I don't know, but I want to know, because I want to
456 watch the people's money here. If you're here and you don't pay taxes, well, so be it. But if you do pay
457 taxes, you want to know where that money goes. Everybody in here, and the staff, and the council, this
458 is a business discussion. It's not a date. It is a business discussion. I respect Ms. Fellner, and the staff.
459 But, I'm gonna try to get the answers for the people. I work for the people of this town. I was elected
460 by the people of this town and I took an oath of office. Thank you.

461

462 Mr. Stevens. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. A little bit has been said about staff and everything. But,
463 let's get round to brass tacks. Let's get down to what the law says. Section 2-113 Duties of
464 Administrator. (a) The town administrator is responsible for keeping the Town Council fully informed to
465 support Town Councilmembers fulfillment of their fiduciary responsibilities and, these are the most
466 important words, to better represent the citizens. That's the thing that we have to have as
467 councilmembers, is we have to have somebody who is going to give us all the information when we ask
468 for it. I know you mentioned, Ralph Magliette was mentioned that he had to do research. He did
469 research. He shouldn't have had, never had to do research. He should have been able to ask a question
470 and get the answer. If he wanted to research it a little further, and verify the facts, as [President]
471 Ronald Reagan said 'trust, but verify,' he could've done that. That's what I try to do. The other thing is
472 we're told a lot of times not to ask staff or directors. But, it says in the ordinance, except for purposes of
473 inquiry. Every person on this council has a right to inquire and get information from directors so we are
474 better informed and can better serve the citizens. These are simple facts that are in here. Transparency
475 in government is important. We have to have people on staff, people on council, it has to be
476 transparent. I agree that we should have the town administrator reading her reports or either publish
477 them on line so the citizens can read them as well. I agree 100-percent with that. That being said, I

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June 27, 2016

478 thank you all for coming out. Appreciate all the interest, and we've had a lot of people speaking and
479 that's great. The more public feedback we get from the citizens, the better we know how we're doing
480 our job. I thank you for coming out and speaking. Have a good night, please.

481
482 Mr. Johnson. Mr. Mayor, I hope I'm not out of line, but I would just like to comment. I certainly
483 support all of our department heads and our employees. We have a great staff and I just want to
484 applaud them for all that they do. Thank you for coming out.

485
486 Mayor Childs. I'd like to echo Mr. Johnson's comments. We do have a hardworking staff here.
487 They do the best that they can. I know that. They are very up front and I've never been refused any
488 information that I've ever requested, and I want to thank them. Ms. Fellner, the same thing. I've never
489 gone to Ms. Fellner and asked her for anything that I have not received the answer. If she didn't have it
490 right there, she'd get right back to me. So, I do want to thank all of you for the job you do. Ms. Fellner,
491 I want to thank you.

492
493 **Executive Session, continued from 6:00 p.m. session, see page 1.**

494
495 Mr. Stevens moved to enter executive session at 7:51 p.m. pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to
496 discuss various employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of
497 an employee or employees. Mr. Pellegrino second. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and
498 Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino and Stevens voted in favor. Mr. Johnson voted against. **MOTION**
499 **CARRIED.** Mr. Johnson moved to reconvene regular session at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All voted in
500 favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said no action was taken during executive session.

501
502 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Ott
503 and Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

504
505 Prepared and submitted by,

506
507 _____
508 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

509 Approved: July 12, 2016

510
511 _____
512 Robert F. Childs, Mayor

513
514 _____
515 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

516
517 _____
518 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

519
520 _____
521 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

522
523 _____
524 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

525
526 _____
527 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

528
529 _____
530 Vacant Seat

531
532 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded.
533 Contact the town clerk for appointments to hear recordings. Bring a flash drive to obtain a free copy. In
534 accordance with FOIA §30-4-80, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and
535 subscribers on the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the town website and the
536 entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the Town marquee.
537