



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH, SURFSIDE BEACH, SC
FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ott called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Johnson, Pellegrino, Samples, and Stevens were in attendance. Mayor Childs was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann, and Public Works Director Adair.

Fishing

Mr. Ott said this workshop is to discuss proposed ordinances to regulate saltwater fishing on the beach and a proposed stormwater utility fee. He asked for any public comments on the surf fishing ordinance. There were no public comments about saltwater fishing.

Ms. Fellner said the town anticipates a higher number of surf fishermen since the pier was damaged. A brief slide presentation was given outlining the proposed ordinance, a copy of which is on file.

Ms. Valerie Gressick, 5th Avenue South, asked if the fishing area would be posted, and if licenses were required. Mr. Ott said it would have to be. Ms. Fellner said the Department of Natural Resources controls and issues saltwater fishing licenses.

Mr. Mike Holt, Yaupon Drive, said kids like to play in the surf under the pier, because it is shaded. There is a "big rub" between fishermen and sunbathers.

Ms. Judy Kidd, 11th Avenue North, asked if the issues about fishing could be shared. Mr. Ott explained there are not many surf casters on the beach now. Fishermen are generally on the pier, but because the pier was damaged, we anticipate there will be more fishing on the beach. Prohibiting fishing was also discussed, but that option was not included in the presentation. Ms. Kidd said nobody wants to see anyone get hooked. She doesn't fish and "doesn't have a dog in the fight," but there are a lot of people that do fish. She assumed council would regulate the fishing hours. Mr. Ott said he did not know. We may adopt the entire ordinance or none of it. This meeting is to hear public input.

Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard, said since there is no place for fishermen to cast their lines, it's a great idea to allow fishing on 300 feet on either side of the pier all the time, but the area needs to be marked. He suggested red and green flags to mark the beginning and end of the area. Time should also be limited on the rest of the beach, possibly before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m. during the tourist season. Nobody should be fishing where kids are swimming regardless of the time. He shared an incident from last season when drunk men were shark fishing near the swimmers and surfers. Eventually the police came and settled the matter.

Ms. Sandra Elliott, 5th Avenue North, said I'm confused. Swimmers are not supposed to be within 300 feet of the pier, so fishing should be allowed there all day long. I agree with Mr. Kohlmann that we need to clearly define the area. I think a trial time for the rest of the beach would be good; way before and way after.

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53 Mr. Walter Gressick, 5th Avenue South, said he and his wife fish off the pier. We used to surf
54 fish. I can't figure out why we have to put time if you have 300 feet. We tell people on the pier you
55 can't fish for sharks, and it's stupid. You can lose your line, your reel, and break your rod. It's
56 dangerous. I don't think there's going to a mass amount of fishermen out there.
57

58 Ms. Samples said whatever is done will be temporary. Because we don't have a pier, staff
59 brought us a concern about the fact that our fishermen would be fishing off the beach. During the height
60 of our tourist season, it could create a public safety issue. My recommendation was to prohibit fishing
61 during the height of the tourist season, because of public safety. Some councilmembers did not like that
62 because they were concerned about the lack of revenue if the fishermen went to other rentals outside
63 the town. By assigning times, which I support, no surf fishing after 10:00 a.m. or before 5:00 p.m., my
64 concern is enforcement. We have enforcement issues now along the beach, cigarette smoking, alcohol,
65 tents, umbrellas, and what the recommendation is if we do set times that lifeguards, beach patrol, and
66 beach services monitor fishing. I personally do not want lifeguards checking for fishing licenses. I'd
67 rather them be paying attention to what's happening in the ocean. I'm not sure what the best answer is.
68 She reiterated her belief that prohibiting surf fishing temporarily for this season would be less of a public
69 safety issue. If we are going to have it, then enforcement will be a concern. She said this concern did
70 not exist in the past, because we had a pier, and we are concerned when we have families out there
71 enjoying their summer.
72

73 Mr. Stevens said this basically comes down to a public safety issue, I'm a fisherman. I've only
74 surf fished one time and it was in the middle of nowhere. Surf fishermen fish from one end of the beach
75 to the other. I do know that some of the fishermen in town have started utilizing the Myrtle Beach State
76 Park pier, because it was not damaged. I talked with one guy who used to use frequent the pier all the
77 time and that's where he goes now. The area 300 feet on each side of the pier sounds like a logical
78 place to put the surf fishermen. We definitely would have to mark the area; on the land and in the water
79 so fishermen will know the boundaries. We may want to talk to DNR to see whether the pier can sell the
80 saltwater fishing licenses. We don't want our staff out there enforcing fishing license; that's the job of
81 the DNR. I think the logistics of this is effectively communicating where fishing is allowed. I can say I
82 wouldn't swim anywhere around the pier, after watching the sharks swim around the end of it. Like Mr.
83 Kohlmann said there was an incident last summer. I heard about it. Shark fishing is prohibited on just
84 about every beach in South Carolina. You can go out into the ocean to shark fish. We have to decide
85 what we want to do. We need your input more than we need anything, because the people that live
86 here and pay taxes are the people that really need to tell us what they want.
87

88 Mr. Johnson said I am not in favor of suspending fishing on the beach. This is going to create
89 different problems simply because we don't have a pier. We need to take some type of action to
90 minimize the issue. I am a fisherman, salt and freshwater. One of the major issues I have is we need to
91 get your input, and the ordinance needs to have a sunset clause so it will end when the pier is
92 operational. I wouldn't have any problem with limiting hours. Up to this point, based on the number of
93 residents and visitors that we have to my knowledge there really hasn't been that many issues between
94 fishermen and swimmers. I am basing my concerns and decisions on that. Although that could very well
95 change. This is something that we just have to face. We may have to change it midstream. You just
96 don't know. Basically, that's all I have to say, except for the fact that I do have some issues with some
97 technicalities in the state regulations and the proposed regulations. Our biggest concern now is safety.
98 The chumming issue; no chumming within a mile of the shore. Number one, it's crazy, because it's
99 unenforceable. If you're a King Mackerel fishermen, you do a lot of chumming. That being said, that is
100 not relevant to our issue. That's all I have. Thank you.
101

102 Mr. Pellegrino said I think you guys have the right conclusion there having 300 feet from the pier
103 open all day, and before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 for the rest of the beach. I think that is a safe
104 environment for people. I do think it's enforceable. There are two Gators that ride up and down the
105 beach all day during the season. If there is an emergency, we can get someone there. We have the

106 wording from Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach to compare. I don't see it as an issue. I don't think
107 we should enforce fishing licenses that's way out of our jurisdiction. As far as location for fishermen and
108 swimmers, we have two policemen on the beach all time. I don't agree with suspending the fishing.
109

110 Mr. Courtney said my great concern is that we are a tourist town. I spent a lot of time at the
111 beach. My family spends a lot of time. My daughters surf there. I've seen this throughout the summers
112 I've been here. It comes with common sense; some people have it and some people don't. When you
113 see people swimming and surfing, you don't cast a line. So this is a problem that we have. As far as
114 enforcement, we have no enforcement on the beach. We have a Gator that goes up and down at beach.
115 We have a no smoking regulations; no drinking alcohol regulations, and I've never see any enforcement
116 whatsoever. I've been on the beach this past summer. I saw a gentlemen came out surf casting where
117 there were surfers and swimmers. I've been surf casting for many, many years, mostly off jetties.
118 Getting over the break is difficult unless you have a strong arm to swing the rod. I think we need to look
119 seriously at time restrictions.
120

121 Mr. Ott said we are a tourist town. We have people come here to sit on the beach. Mainly the
122 fishermen were all on the pier. Everything blended well. We don't have a pier anymore. You can't hook
123 into people; you can't put hooks and people together. So, we'll see what we come up with for the Town
124 of Surfside Beach. Myrtle Beach State Park and Garden City have fishing piers that fishermen can use for
125 another year or so, that will be fine. We will have our pier up and better than it's ever been in 2018.
126 Thank you. That ends the workshop for surf fishing.
127

128 **Stormwater Utility Fee**

129
130 Mr. Adair gave a presentation, a copy of which is on file. Town Council authorized having a study
131 done to determine what an equivalent residential unit fee (ERU) would be for Surfside Beach as a way to
132 fund the stormwater operations. We are the only town in the area that does not have an ERU.
133 Currently, a portion of the millage is designated for stormwater. The stormwater budget pays for:
134 system maintenance, MS-4 Permit, and the NPDES Permit that has six minimum control measures that
135 authorizes the town to discharge stormwater into the ocean. Compliance requires the town to provide
136 education, public involvement, supervise runoff at construction sites, and illicit discharge detection and
137 elimination. The stormwater committee and volunteer water monitoring programs are part of this
138 function. We are in Phase 2 of the second cycle of NPDES permitting. This started 2007 and our current
139 permit expires in 2018. We get audited every year for the work being done and we have to show what
140 we have done.
141

142 Mr. Adair said the stormwater utility fee was brought to council in the November 2015 budgeting
143 cycle to talk about a way to help fund some of the costs. Town Council recognized at the visioning
144 process that a dedicated funding source is needed to address the numerous stormwater related needs in
145 the town. Council approved funding for a consulting firm to analyze town parcel data and to develop a
146 five-year budget resource allocation plan based upon what we perceived to be our biggest stormwater
147 needs: bulkheads, swashes, bridges, culverts, etc., and to develop an interim stormwater management
148 utility program and ordinance. That's where we are right now. This initial work has been completed. Our
149 consultant is ready to meet with staff to fine tune the program, and tailor and ordinance to our needs.
150 We were asked by the council at the vision meeting to present the suggestion to the public in a
151 workshop. The proposal would set an interim fee during the first year. An impervious study would be
152 done for commercial properties to determine the final rates. A spreadsheet was distributed, a copy of
153 which is on file. Budget needs over a five-year period are calculated; property uses single-family, multi-
154 family, nonprofits, commercial, etc. and those calculations break down to an equivalent residential unit
155 (ERU.) The basic single-family home based on the study would pay around \$64 a year. There are five
156 projects coming up that need to be done. The town has an obligation to maintain its stormwater system.
157 Utility fees are an equitable way to charge users for their impact on the system. Our coastal proximity
158 makes Surfside Beach vulnerable to storms. Without proper maintenance and improvements to the

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159 stormwater system, we risk flooding town residents and creating upstream flooding. It would cost much
160 more to repair problems that to properly maintain the system.

161
162 Mr. Ott said that council asked staff to bring a proposal for funding the stormwater projects
163 without raising property taxes. No decision has been made, yet. That's why council wanted to hold this
164 workshop to hear everybody's opinion.

165
166 Ms. Holly Watson, North Oak Drive, said I am on a double lot. There is a single family residence
167 on one lot, but the other lot is vacant. Do I have to pay for both lots? Mr. Adair said the property is
168 considered one lot if they have the same tax map number; however, vacant lots will not pay an ERU. Ms.
169 Watson said there were two stormwater project lists, one from February 2016 and one from January
170 2017, and asked where the numbers came from. I assume the paid engineer gave us these numbers.
171 A grant was applied for to replace the Myrtle Swash culvert bridge, and we should know something this
172 week. Yes? Then that \$550,000 can be taken off the list. Last year that project cost was \$170,000; this
173 year it is \$550,000. That is 2.75 times higher. Last year two bulkheads at Floral swash were \$279,000.
174 This year the cost is \$200,000 for one bulkhead. Myrtle swash was finished, and it can come off the list.
175 But, we are still asking for \$3 million. I was a contractor for over 19 years. (**) If I ran my business
176 like we're trying to run this budget, or asked people to pay for things that have no rhyme or reason, I
177 wouldn't get very far. She sked if the option to create a special district to fund projects was still open?
178 Ms. Fellner said that was just an option that council could consider. Ms. Watson said (**) We can knock
179 \$1 million off the project costs. There are many places to get stormwater money other than our pockets.
180 (**) What happened to 2-percent mills that were allocated to stormwater? Are you going to collect the
181 millage and ERU? Mr. Ott said there is maintenance being done; other projects. That's where I would
182 think it would be used, because we are doing some work on our stormwater system. Ms. Watson
183 continued, getting back to the \$2 million, or it could be less depending on the grant award. There is an
184 interest rate of 1.4-percent available from the State Revolving Fund. Why don't we get a loan and pay it
185 out of stormwater millage. Mr. Ott said the administrator brought that possibility up today. Ms. Watson
186 said we can apply for any one of these grants. (Ms. Watson gave councilmembers a list of contacts for
187 state and federal grants.) So, I say let's get on the ball and do that. She also distributed information on
188 using Design Build Institute of America firm for these projects. Statistics show that you can save 6-
189 percent on every construction job using design/build. She believes the town can save money by using
190 this type firm. She said 51-percent of the town is over 51; 7-percent are widows, and 655 are
191 unemployed or live below the poverty level. Those receiving Social Security did not receive a 5-percent
192 raise. Consider design/build before you start taxing our citizens. Thank you very much.

193
194 Mr. Robert Ganassa, South Ocean Boulevard, said [Ms. Watson's] comments were right on
195 target. I questioned those numbers myself. What did it cost when we redid the swash between
196 Dogwood and Ocean Boulevard on the west side? Mr. Stevens said it was almost 200,000. Mr. Ganassa
197 continued asking who determines how these are built. For example, you have big concrete blocks there.
198 Why do these swashes have to be open? Why we think about putting square concrete tubes just like
199 what's underneath Ocean Boulevard, so you would have only so much water coming out of the lake. You
200 would have completely closed down, covered up, put the tubes in place, and then you could add about
201 25 or 30 parking spots. Instead we have this big open ditch. I agree with [Ms. Watson]; design/build,
202 and I think you're paying way too much for things. Do they all have to be open swashes? I don't know.
203 Mr. Adair said it much more expensive, and would reduce the amount of water runoff. A 200 foot
204 covered ditch would be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Ganassa believed once it was built, it
205 would never have to be rebuilt. Should you vote to increase taxes to cover these project, how do we
206 know it will go to stormwater and not into some general fund and disappear? I've seen others taxes
207 collected, but the money is not available for the projects; i.e. Education Lottery, and they never have any
208 money. I thank you all for this opportunity and being able to be here. I give you a lot of credit. Thank
209 you very much.

210
211 Mr. Ott said this is the input we need; to have everybody's thoughts.

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Ms. Sandra Elliott, 5th Avenue South. (**) said what do we know about the money. This is why the stormwater committee supports the proposed utility fee just for stormwater usage. The 2 mils collected if roughly \$140,000 a year, and that goes into the capital line item in general fund. At that point if you want that money for something else, it gets transferred over and our money disappears from stormwater. But, it's up to you. You are the council.

Ms. Judy Kidd asked why the 2 mils for stormwater were not separated from other funds and left there. What's the purpose of the budget, if not to follow it? I realize there are times that things happen that take extra money. The budget is very opaque. We need to have a clearer budget, frankly, because you need to get the pockets of money out in public view so that everyone knows what's happening. The check registers on line tell a tale, but how many people spend the hours to look at those registers? There are some, but not many. I think there are a lot of people in town that are tired of the shell game.

Mr. Ron Crouch, 11th Avenue North, said to piggy-back on my neighbors comments, council is the one who decides what funds go to stormwater. Before I moved here it was 5 mils. Then sometime close to an election it dropped to 1 mil. Now it's back to 2 mils. This is why over the last 18 months the stormwater committee worked very closely with Mr. Adair on trying to find out, especially what our neighbors do. It doesn't make sense that my money is the same amount as Piggly Wiggly's money and it goes into a fund that that can go to buy tourist maps, and then Mr. Adair has to come beg and borrow. A year and half ago we started talking about this. Thanks to Hurricane Matthew, now we had a crisis, which has just been taking care of. This is why the committee said okay. We need to get this funded, and the most obvious way is to collect it as a part of the water and sewer bill. It's charged on an equitable basis based on how much water runs off your property. If water soaks into your ground, it's not stormwater feed. If it does run off your property, it is goes into the town's water system. Using the utility fee would allow the money to go into a designated account. Two years from now when counsel's composition changes, somebody has made a campaign promise that they feel they absolutely follow through, and they want to put soundproof windows in here so you don't hear the traffic between five and seven when you're meeting, then suddenly, the storm water money that was supposed to be for a project cannot be expropriated. The stormwater committee, of which I am a member, feels it should be a fair and equitable fee based on what does not absorb on your property. A set fee, five dollars a month to get kind of service we have. During the flood and hurricane, I saw people in Socastee riding around in boats, but I could walk all the way down my street and not get my feet wet. Trust me that is the way I want to see this done; a fee set that your successors cannot use for any other purpose. Thank you.

Ms. Wanda Spannuth, Harbor Lights Drive, said I just have a question. Two mils tax money is supposed to be used for stormwater. Apparently, it is not all being used for stormwater. If the town adopts the fee, will the 2 mils for stormwater go away?

Mr. Ott said good question. They are all good questions; good ideas. Mr. Courtney asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Ms. Watson asked for an explanation on the \$1 million cost for the Melody Basin, and why that needs to be done. Mr. Ott explained that's to divert the town's water that is going into Garden City. Mr. Adair said that project was not absolutely necessary, but there was a liability. There are about 20 acres that drain into the Garden City/Murrells Inlet basin. The town's liability is 80-percent versus the county's 20-percent for repairs. The way to mitigate the liability is to redirect the water through the town. That watershed's water quality is compromised, and the town does not want to be named as a party in any potential suit.

Mr. Ott asked if that area has water testers. Mr. Adair said yes, there are several locations in Garden City and Murrells Inlet, and explained the different levels of contamination; how testing is done, and how the data collected is valuable to the town. Because the watershed receives water from as far

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265 away as North Carolina, the town's liability could be huge, if the Environmental Protection Agency
266 determines there is a problem.

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268 Ms. Judy Kidd said she was EPA certified, and asked what parameters were used for testing. Mr.
269 Adair said bacteria, turbidity, low dissolved oxygen and a smorgasbord of other things. Analysis of the
270 samples is performed by the Coastal Carolina University lab. Ms. Kidd said the basins help with
271 suspended solids, except during a storm. Mr. Adair said the 13th Avenue South system does not have a
272 lake. Ms. Kidd asked if coliform was the main concern, if yes, Ultra Violet (UV) light would kill that
273 bacteria. She asked if grants could be evaluated. She believed there are a number of people in town
274 that might possibly volunteer their services or write grants. There are provisions in grant funding to pay
275 people who have grant expertise. She agreed with Ms. Watson about people on limited income. We
276 can't expect our elderly residents to pay more and more, or to move.

277
278 Mr. Ron Crouch said in the long term that is a great idea. The problem is we have infrastructure
279 that has not been maintained for the last ten years. We have wooden pier supporting roads right now
280 that were installed 35- to 40-years ago. Pressure treated lumber has a very finite lifespan. We have to
281 take care of a problem that exists now. The money has to come from somewhere. Politically, it makes a
282 lot of sense to be able to say we are going to adopt a user fee and take 2 mils off the tax rate. Further,
283 we are going to put some money into getting grant research done. Especially to see if there are
284 volunteers in town with expertise that can help as a long term solution. For the stormwater committee,
285 and for Mr. Adair and his staff who deliver the most excellent service, each one of you just praised them
286 to the sky. They have done an absolute, wonderful job for us. But we can't keep paying unless there is
287 money coming in, unless we're going to sacrifice some kind of other basic service. My job is to give
288 serious thought to letting Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority add a utility fee to our bills until a
289 long term solution can be identified. However it works, there's a bunch of stuff needs to be done today,
290 and in the very near future. We won't know the cost until it's time to do the project. You buy
291 homeowners insurance, but you didn't file a claim. But, you want total house repair, and it just so
292 happens that the price of labor and materials has gone up in the United States. Therefore, your rates
293 just went up. The actual number is not the issue here. We've got bills to pay, we've got (***) that we've
294 got working on. It will take money to do it. Unless you're going to find the money out of the kitty that
295 we've got, you've got to get money somewhere. Grants as a long term solution is a great idea, and
296 these other suggestions that Ms. Watson brought up are all great ideas. But they are not today; they
297 cannot be implemented now so that six months from now money is available to fund an emergency
298 repair. Thank you.

299
300 Ms. Watson said last September she asked why sanitation revenue was down and the cost of
301 labor skyrocketed. She was told by the finance director that it was because Grand Strand Water and
302 Sewer wrote off a bunch of accounts. With this new fee based on the water bill, if a bunch of accounts
303 are arbitrarily written off then the expected revenue will not be received. Would the rest of the town
304 take up the slack? She said this was a very unfriendly fee. Business will pay \$30 to \$40 more a month.
305 That is no way to attract new businesses. It seems that we have several thousand dollars due for
306 property taxes that could be collected. We are not doing everything we can to collect all the money that
307 is owed to us. In my opinion, we are not being very good stewards (***) Surely, the town can find
308 \$500,000 to build a new bridge out of the \$8.8 million balance we had in December and the \$1.8 million
309 coming in during January. A councilmember or somebody needs to negotiate with the State Department
310 of Transportation to get money to help fund these projects. We're supposed to get some money back
311 from FEMA for the Hurricane Matthew cleanup. That should be on the books as a receipt, as well. We
312 still don't know what it cost for the debris removal. Ms. Watson proceeded to explain how the City of
313 Myrtle Beach tracked its debris removal by using a dairy, and said the town could use the same system.
314 (***) She did not understand why Grand Strand Water & Sewer was writing off water bills, because she
315 had to pay a past due bill for an apartment she moved into before the water was turned on. She
316 believed there were a lot of things that could be done before adding more fees.

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318 Mr. Pellegrino said thank you very much for your comments. I appreciate you guys taking time
319 to come. This is actually a good group for a workshop. I think there's an issue with the timing on this,
320 because I understand that staff wants to understand what we're doing with this so they can incorporate it
321 into the budget. We had a visioning meeting, and now the budget team is putting the numbers together.
322 I want to see what exactly is going to beach nourishment; if we're getting a refund from that, and it will
323 be reinvested, and what the unassigned funds will be compared to last year before even considering
324 something like this. I don't agree with this fee. It was mentioned that council could decide that it goes
325 down in year two, or whatever. But it's just going to go up; it's not coming down. We have this thing
326 called inflation our country, so everything costs more every year. Once it's in place, it's going to be
327 there forever. Sixty-four dollars for a retired person on fixed income is real; \$365 for a business when
328 we have a bunch of empty business fronts that were trying to fill that's just one other negative to bring a
329 business in town. It's one extra tax. I understand we need the money. I agree we need to look deeper
330 in the budget. Our staff is working on putting a budget together, so we can start that process. I think
331 it's too early to even move down this path right now. Thank you very much for your comments, I
332 appreciate them. (Mr. Pellegrino left the workshop at 6:29 p.m.)
333

334 Mr. Johnson said thank you all for your comments. We got a lot of good comments, pro and
335 con. In my opinion, we are early in the process and this is just a first step. We shall see later on down
336 the road whether we do this fee or not. It's still up in the air. Thank you.
337

338 Mr. Courtney said thank you for your comments. I really appreciate them. I do have concerns
339 myself. I'm not in favor of the fee. I understand there is work that needs to be done. I feel the town
340 has not sought grants. I worked in municipal government for 27 years. To be quite honest with you,
341 this is the only township I've seen that does not seek grants. I don't get that, so I'd like to for us to look
342 to see if there are grants available, so we can get some help with this. The tax, when does it end?
343 When do the fees end? Last time it was sanitation. This time it's water impact. It's a never-ending fee.
344 That's what I'm worried about. If there is a fee impact, when will it end or does it continue on or does
345 the money get used for other things? I'm really concerned about that. Right now, we have too much
346 out there on our plate. We have a lot of things going on. We've got to be very cautious to make sound
347 decisions. We can't jump the gun on this as Mr. Johnson said. We are still in the early stages of this.
348 We need to be very careful on how we proceed with this. Again, I would like to see the town seek more
349 grants.
350

351 Mr. Stevens said I really appreciate what Miss Watson said. Also what Ms. Kidd said, and the
352 gentleman who spoke. I look at these prices knowing that in 2014 when the Myrtle swash was assumed
353 to be the responsibility of Surfside Realty that I personally put a bid in for this repair at \$60,000 for the
354 same exact material. The difference was that I had a nine foot wall and they built a seven foot wall. My
355 wall was 190 feet; there's is 250. The very same exact material and the materials were only \$31,000.
356 How it cost \$197,000 a couple years later is beyond me. I think there's some things going on that's a
357 little deep, but that's what exactly happened. We talked about Melody Basin. I went to the 2020 Murrells
358 Inlet meeting. After Town Council voted not do that water testing on Woodland Drive, the 2020 group
359 took it over and paid for it. We were paying for it before. Their water quality chart showed that
360 Woodland Drive, most of Murrells Inlet right on up to the Crazy Sister Marina, and all that was fine. The
361 worst place in the whole 2020 area was Huntington Beach State Park, which had the worst water quality.
362 We did away with a \$7,000 expense and they took it over. I want to know to justify the Melody Basin
363 project what flooding have we caused there? I know of none. We talk about the liability; we paint this
364 little gray cloud, but do we really have a gray cloud there? About \$1 million to eliminate discharge where
365 it goes right on out of Murrells Inlet by the jetties. It's a lot of money we're talking about spending. I
366 can't vote for a fee until I see the town staff start bidding this business out and getting this design build.
367 Y'all gave us a lot of good stuff here. We're spending way too much money to do work in this town. We
368 have, unfortunately, picked one engineer and were paying through the nose. That's just my personal
369 opinion. Until we get out of that and start bidding and operating like were supposed to. We've got a
370 President right now that said Air Force One cost too much; give me a better price. He did the same thing

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371 with jets. We've got to do the same thing here in this little town of Surfside. We've got to bid
372 everything. We've got to do it in a logical, deliberate way. We can't pay this money out forever and ever.
373 I pay \$52 in Georgetown County. I've got a piece of property there. If you saw my property, you'd
374 wonder why in the heck are you paying \$52 in stormwater fees for that piece of property. But, I do. I
375 don't like it. I've been paying it since 2007, and since they say \$52, I'm going to go back and look my
376 old tax bills and see if it went up. Anytime you put a fee on somebody, like Mr. Pellegrino said, it ain't
377 going to go down. Don't kid yourself. Government always goes up. Until we get fiscally responsible and
378 start bidding this stuff out, and getting responsible with the citizens' money, we're not going to do
379 anything here. We're just going to be spinning our wheels and talking and talking. This town has to get
380 fiscally responsible, and we need to bid everything else. I guarantee you, if we bid these things out like
381 Miss Watson, went after these grants like Ms. Kidd and Ms. Watson said ... 1.4-percent, I'd like to get
382 some money. Borrow that, that's way to pay for things, 1.4-percent. Anybody would take that loan. But,
383 that's the facts. The fact is, this counsel has to be fiscally responsible from one to the other. We can no
384 longer play favorites here favorites there, putting our money here and getting these figures thrown at us
385 like say \$2,700. At one time they had it \$3,500. I still question that place down on Myrtle swash, how it
386 went up over three times what I bid for a private business, Surfside Realty. Thank you.
387

388 Ms. Samples said I thank the stormwater committee for your effort and your work. I know you
389 put a lot of time into it. Same with staff. Mr. Adair, you all did a remarkable job in preparing us and
390 giving us this information. I do agree with Mr. Pellegrino. I think it's too early for us to be talking about
391 a stormwater fee. I'm not in support of it at this time. I think we do need to research alternative
392 funding sources. I also think it's important for us to recognize, however, that we do have an aging
393 infrastructure in town. We need to be mindful the next few years in what may be before us, and I think
394 we need to be smart in how we budget and prepare and plan. There are 2 mils being dedicated to
395 stormwater. That's a fact. You can find it in the audit. No question about that. But, there is not enough
396 there. We certainly need to build upon that, and I'm not sure what the best way is to build upon it. But,
397 I know that our staff and our stormwater committee and others have been putting a lot of time and effort
398 into coming to some sort of resolve. Stormwater fee being one option, and it's a good option. I'm just
399 not so sure it's the option for us. I'm not convinced of that. Yes, I agree that we need to find
400 alternative funding sources, and we need to do it sooner than later. I'm a big proponent of grants. I
401 love that our administrator has been going after a lot of grants recently, and I applaud Ms. Fellner for
402 that; Mr. Adair, as well. I'm hopeful that we're going to come out a little bit better when it comes to
403 going after some alternative funding source. The input is important. It helps educate all of us and I'm
404 grateful for your time and attention. The laundry list of items that are being recommended to be
405 repaired, yes, I noticed as well that the numbers changed. I have questions about that myself. At this
406 point in time, the more information we get, the better. I'm happy to look at some other alternatives
407 besides supporting stormwater fee at this time. Thank you.
408

409 Mr. Ott said I appreciate everybody coming here and given their input. This is what the
410 workshop is for. I should ask the staff and the administrator if they want to add anything. *(Staff had no*
411 *comments.)* I appreciate their efforts on the presentation to show us everything that were doing; we
412 need to do differently than we've done in the past in this town. We let people talk all you want. This is
413 our town. It belongs to us, and it's coming out of your pockets, your wallets. That's where the money
414 comes from. You need to have input.
415

416 Ms. Kidd (speaking from audience **) can we find out what grants we have applied for? Ms.
417 Samples said sure, I can answer that question right now as it relates to the road over the 4th Avenue
418 North swash. A grant has been applied for that recently. Just in the last month, I think. There were
419 four different submittals for that grant.
420

421 Mr. Ott said thank you, and your time is not wasted. We're listening and understanding this. I
422 don't believe this town went for grants that much in the past. We're going to look at that. We're going
423 to do that now. We're going to change the way we do business. Hopefully, because I can see this entire

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424 council looking that way. I appreciate the efforts that staff put into today's workshop. As a council we
425 need to look and see if we need a dedicated staff person that would be looking at grants or any other
426 way that we can put this together, because it is that much money out there, we need to get it. I want to
427 thank everybody; thank you for coming.

428
429 ADJOURNMENT.

430
431 Mayor Pro Tempore Ott declared the workshop adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

432 Prepared and submitted by,

433 _____
434 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

435
436
437 Approved: March 14, 2017

438 _____
439 Robert F. Childs, Mayor

440
441 _____
442 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore

443 _____
444 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council

445 _____
446 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

447 _____
448 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

449 _____
450 Julie M. Samples, Town Council

451 _____
452 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

453 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
454 and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
455 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive.
456 In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local
457 media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry
458 door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at
www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.