



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION APRIL 11, 2017 ♦ 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 11, 2017 ♦ 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. Tuesday, April 11, 2017 for the purpose of entering executive session pursuant to FOIA §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the appointment of a person to a public body. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Samples were absent. A quorum was present. Mr. Ott moved to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session at 6:04 p.m. Mr. Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Childs said for the record that no action was taken during executive session. Any motions and/or directions to the town administrator will be made during the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. as noted on the agenda under Business Item 7.D. Mayor Childs declared the session adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Town Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Childs called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, Pellegrino, and Stevens were in attendance. Councilmembers Johnson and Samples were absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Administrator Fellner; Town Clerk Herrmann; Fire Chief Otte, and Interim Police Chief Hofmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A. Invocation: Councilmember Pellegrino gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Courtney moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment to delete Discussion Item 8.B. Parking Committee Recommendations. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Courtney explained that there were too many questions for the parking committee for this discussion to be held. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting March 28, 2017. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the March 28, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only. (3-minutes per speaker). There were no public comments on agenda items.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Fire Staffing, Chief Otte. Mr. Courtney asked Chief Otte a series of questions regarding fire staffing:

Q: How many career firefighters does the town employ? A: Seven.

Q: How many career firefighters are on duty for each tour (shift)? A: Two. A captain and an engineer on each of the three shifts.

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55 Q: When a fire call is answered, do they run a truck and an engine? A: The engine typically
56 responds first with two personnel.
57

58 Q: How could an interior line be advanced with only two on scene? A: In certain circumstances,
59 the engineer would secure the truck and then help the captain advance the line. This would only be
60 done when a life is in danger.
61

62 Q: How do you know when a life is in danger? A: That is a judgment call made by staff.
63 Considerations are the number of cars parked at the location; what is reported during the call for
64 assistance; knowing whether the structure was occupied. Officers are trained to determine whether a fire
65 is survivable.
66

67 Mr. Courtney believed that was risky and expressed concern that the department is run with two
68 career personnel on each tour.
69

70 Q: Did you know that OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requires a minimum
71 of four on each shift? A: OSHA requires two in and two out. Several NFPA (National Fire Prevention
72 Association) Codes have a minimum of four.
73

74 Mr. Courtney said that he was concerned about not adhering to the OSHA standards and the
75 NFPA standards. That was why over the winter the organizational committee discussed hiring additional
76 firefighters. This was brought to council's attention in the past.
77

78 Q: Of the career firefighters on staff, how much time do they have remaining before retirement? A:
79 Probably between five to seven years of those who are nearing retirement. Many of the members have
80 20-plus years in fire service.
81

82 Q: The town depends on volunteers to assist with fighting fires? A: Volunteers are toned out
83 (called) the same time as staff. Within about seven minutes, there will be a mass of people on scene.
84 Garden City/Murrells Inlet and Horry County fire departments are also toned at the same time when there
85 is a structure fire.
86

87 Mr. Courtney said seven minutes for a fire is a long time, and reiterated his concern that two
88 men on duty is insufficient to protect the town. Chief Otte said fires double in size every minute. Mr.
89 Courtney reiterated that SAFER Grant program should be used to grow the department staff. Chief Otte
90 explained that there is a list of 12 to 15 part time people that are called to supplement staff.
91

92 Q: How do you work a building fire without the ladder truck? A: Depending on locations,
93 volunteers and other companies will be on location within seven minutes.
94

95 Mr. Courtney said Chief Otte should meet with the organizational committee to develop a plan to
96 have four career firefighters per shift.
97

98 Mr. Ott said he did not understand how the fire system worked, but his concern was that a
99 career firefighter was going in without any support. Chief Otte said firefighters always enter buildings in
100 groups of two. My officers and engineers all have the experience to make the call as to whether a
101 structure should be entered, and again, once the engineer sets the truck, he can enter the building along
102 with the other firefighter. Unless the firefighters believe there is a chance for survival, they will not enter
103 the structure. Mr. Ott said whatever the town needs to do to have the manpower necessary, it should be
104 done.
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106 Mr. Stevens said that Chief Otte said OSHA requires four. Chief Otte said OSHA requires two in
107 and two out. Mr. Stevens said the town only has two, so what would happen if something happens to
108 one of the two firefighters on scene and OSHA says you're supposed to have four. Doesn't that open the
109 town to a lawsuit? Chief Otte said that is always a possibility. Mr. Stevens said there are many
110 condominiums and high rise homes, particularly in the R3 district. It seems to him that we are short
111 staffed as far as career firefighters. Don't you have to have two people to carry a hose up the stairs?
112 Chief Otte said one person can maneuver the hose up the steps, and many high rise buildings have
113 standpipe systems with hose connections on each floor. Mr. Stevens asked if the ladder truck was taken
114 to a high rise fire. Chief Otte said the truck with water and hoses is dispatched first, the ladder truck is
115 brought by the volunteers who are called at the same time staff is called. Mr. Stevens asked if Chief Otte
116 believed the department would run better with four career firefighters, and said we are not compliant
117 now. Chief Otte said technically we are not compliant, but we have two people on the county ambulance
118 that are trained firefighters in addition to certified EMTs that are counted toward the town's four
119 members on duty. Mr. Stevens asked why we are not compliant. Chief Otte replied I guess it's because of
120 money. Mr. Stevens said we need to spend a little bit more money on public safety.

121
122 Mr. Pellegrino asked how many volunteer firemen the town has. Chief Otte said the number
123 fluctuates between 25 and 30, which includes support staff; interior firefighters; exterior firefighters, and
124 truck operators. Mr. Pellegrino asked how many structure fires the town has had over the last year that
125 no volunteers showed up to assist, and whether more than two firefighters were on scene for previous
126 structure fires. Chief Otte said there have been no structure fires in the past year, and that volunteers
127 have always responded to structure fires, in addition to the mutual aid companies responding. Mr.
128 Pellegrino said we are ISO1 certified, and asked for an explanation of how the Horry County medics help.
129 Chief Otte reiterated that the county EMTs are also trained firefighters and are assigned to the town's
130 station for duty. Therefore, they are counted as two additional firefighters on duty to total the required
131 four. Mr. Pellegrino said the county EMTs have a dual role. Chief Otte said yes. Mr. Pellegrino said the
132 organization that certifies the department, ISO (Insurance Service Organization), determined that our
133 department is rated ISO1, which is the best. I understand the issues, but in the end once additional
134 firefighters come on full time and after the grant ends the town will pay. Chief Otte said the grant terms
135 now stipulate that the town contributes a certain percentage annually, until it assumes full financial
136 responsibility. Mr. Pellegrino said it isn't just salary, costs also include insurance, equipment, and benefits.
137 This is a huge investment. During the upcoming budget meeting we need to think about this as it might
138 lead to cutting other services or asking for a tax increase. Chief Otte said the town lost 7.5 points out of
139 15 total points in the grading, so adding staff would gain points. If staff is added, we will probably lose
140 volunteer response, because many of them work and it is very hard for them to respond during work
141 hours. Mr. Pellegrino asked if there were more volunteers in the past. Chief Otte said the number goes up
142 and down.

143
144 Mayor Childs said an ISO1 rating cannot get any better. Chief Otte said yes, that is right. Mayor
145 Childs said we must be doing something right. Chief Otte said we're on the right track.

146
147 Mr. Ott asked if the ISO knew how the town was operating would the town still be rated ISO1.
148 Chief Otte said at this point yes, because we still have four people per shift, and the only thing that has
149 changed is the volunteer response time. It is just a matter of time till volunteers will be unable to assist
150 because of training time and job commitments. Mr. Ott said there is a good chance volunteers won't
151 show. Chief Otte said it very well could happen.

152
153 Mr. Pellegrino asked if volunteers were paid. Chief Otte said they receive \$10 for each call to
154 which they respond. Mr. Pellegrino said that is a much less expensive way to solve the problem.

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156 Mr. Stevens said he heard about the ISO ratings. The bottom line is this is about saving lives. If
157 spending a few dollars could save somebody's life in this town, I'm all for it. Mr. Stevens asked what
158 could have happened if a fire started during the recent high winds where the buildings are close

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159 together. He reiterated that in his opinion this about public safety. If the town does not comply with
160 OSHA, and we need the extra people, I'd rather spend the money to save a life. Chief Otte said the
161 primary goal is life safety, and he also thought about the high wind situation. A fire during high winds
162 would be problematic.
163

164 Mr. Ott asked Ms. Fellner to state in her opinion how long the town had operated short-handed.
165 Ms. Fellner said when she first started working for the town there was only one career firefighter on each
166 shift. She requested that the number be increased to two, and council agreed. The town is compliant
167 with OSHA and ISO. To increase fire staffing further is a council decision that should be addressed at the
168 budget meeting, because it will be a large expenditure. Chief Otte added that it will cost about \$250,000
169 per year to add six firefighters. Ms. Fellner said that would enable four career staff on each shift.
170

171 Mr. Ott asked the administrator if she recommended fire staff be increased. He understood it is
172 ultimately council's decision, but usually the administrator made a recommendation. Ms. Fellner said no,
173 the number of career staff was doubled years ago after many discussions with Chief Cimini. The town's
174 response time is very fast. She said if everything was perfect, and there was excess money in the
175 budget, then I would love to put more money into public safety. We never want to lose a life. It isn't
176 practical to have 100 lifeguards on the beach nor is it practical to have a fire station staffed with all
177 career personnel. We have to manage it with practicality. Ms. Fellner said having said that, for me, public
178 safety and liability are huge concerns for the town.
179

180 Mr. Courtney said I have experience in firefighting and public safety. What I'm gathering is that
181 we're running our department with two career firefighters and volunteers. Firefighters are not going to
182 enter a dwelling unless they know someone is in there. Staff is rolling the dice on that. The SAFER grant
183 exists for a reason. Myrtle Beach was smart; it picked up ten firefighters using the grant. We have no
184 problem picking up police officers, but we should at least have minimum staffing in the fire department.
185 The ISO1 rating sounds great on paper, but realistically you're telling me you're going to roll up to a
186 scene with just an engine, no truck. You're waiting on the volunteers 10 to 15 minutes to get there. I
187 know from being in other towns that fire departments have actually collapsed, because you can't get any
188 young people on staff or volunteering. Without the properly certified staff on scene, you won't get a line
189 in the interior for ten minutes; the home would be lost. Mr. Courtney continued saying the other problem
190 as I see it is the engineer will leave the engine to help the other firefighter drag a line upstairs into a
191 raised beach house. Very risky. Chief Otte said it was a matter of getting the next company on scene to
192 assist, which is only a few minutes away. Several scenarios were discussed. Mr. Courtney said the town
193 hires full time laborers for public works. In my opinion, our priorities are skewed, because we should be
194 looking for career firefighters. Paying a volunteer \$10 a call; you hope they show up. We talk about
195 things at the organizational meetings, and you need to follow through. This is about saving a life. I don't
196 want to take a chance. I met an elderly gentleman when I was campaigning that was the only full time
197 resident in a condominium building. You would never know he was there unless someone told you. Mr.
198 Courtney continued saying I asked the administrator and the fire chief to look into the SAFER grant in the
199 past. The town should take advantage of the grant, because it will pay for equipment and training.
200 Eventually, current staff will retire. We need to have someone [ready to take over.] I don't want to wait
201 till that day comes. Again, if we can hire full time laborers, we can hire two more full time firefighters.
202

203 Mayor Childs called for an end to this discussion.
204

205 Mr. Stevens asked if a consensus could be given to direct the administrator to look into the
206 SAFER grant. Ms. Fellner said the grant was investigated. The issue is one, two, or three members of
207 council cannot direct us to do something like that. If Town Council wishes to increase staff at the fire
208 department, and use the SAFER grant to fund the positions, then Town Council needs to direct staff by
209 motion to do so.
210

211 **C. Administrator's Report.** Ms. Fellner presented the written report, a copy of which is
212 attached hereto.
213

214 Mr. Ott asked if the sidewalk inspection reports could be delivered at the next meeting. Ms.
215 Fellner hoped so, and said she would let him know. Mr. Ott asked if she was able to find out why North
216 Myrtle Beach got so much money for beach renourishment; was it the Omnibus package? Ms. Fellner said
217 that money was from a totally different source of public money. The town was not eligible for that,
218 because our Reach was already funded. Adding Reach 1 should improve the chances of a successful
219 contract bid for all the Reaches. Mr. Ott asked when this would be done. Ms. Fellner said the most
220 current date was in the report. Mr. Ott said June 2nd. Ms. Fellner said some contractors have expressed
221 interest in the bid, and she hopes it's successful. Mr. Ott asked Ms. Fellner if she could speak with the
222 Army Corp staff. Ms. Fellner said yes, sometimes, only once or twice a year when joint meetings were
223 scheduled.
224

225 Mr. Ott said I do not believe it was necessary to form a focus group to find a new police chief. I
226 recommend that the interim chief be offered the position of chief right now. I believe he could do the job,
227 and I would like to see that done. Chief Hofmann came up through the ranks. I believe he is the man we
228 need for this town. The man is very well qualified to do the job. Ms. Fellner said I understand what you're
229 saying. There are many people in the public who I am sure feel the same way. I have every confidence in
230 Interim Chief Hofmann, or I would not have spoken with him about the position. He plans to put in an
231 application, but the labor attorney always suggest that we go through the hiring process, especially for a
232 director's or chief's position, so that is what we are going to do. It is normally a position where you
233 receive many, many applications. The last time the chief's position was advertised, we received about
234 270 applications. I have every confidence that the best applicant will come out on top. Mr. Ott reiterated
235 that he did not believe this was necessary. It was going to cost the town a lot of money to go through
236 the process. Ms. Fellner reminded council that her position was salaried, and there would be no extra
237 expense. Mayor Childs asked Ms. Fellner if she was following the advice of the labor attorney for this
238 hiring process. Ms. Fellner said yes, I am.
239

240 Mr. Stevens said the focus group for reviewing the applications does not include a single
241 councilmember. The last time a police chief was sought, there were three councilmembers on the focus
242 group. Ms. Fellner said that was correct. Mr. Stevens continued saying that this is a council form of
243 government, not a council-manager nor council-administrator [sic] form of government. Council needs to
244 be involved in these type decisions. We have a very qualified person here that is looking at this job, and
245 he is serving as our interim. I think council should be involved and I don't think we should be doing focus
246 groups. This doesn't sound correct to me. I agree with Mr. Ott, why don't we just ask for consensus and
247 put him on there.
248

249 Mayor Childs said Town Council makes the final decision. Ms. Fellner said there was a change in
250 the ordinance that makes this the administrator's responsibility. Mr. Stevens reiterated his belief that
251 councilmembers should be involved, and that no one could "talk to these people", and Ms. Fellner was
252 very hard to get ahold of. Ms. Fellner responded that I am not hard to get ahold of, Mr. Stevens. I
253 answer all my calls on the same day, or within 24 hours. Every e-mail message is answered the same
254 day.
255

256 Mr. Stevens referred to paragraph B on the administrator's report and said it asks for emergency
257 procurement. Last time we went to emergency procurement, we spent about \$160,000 on a wall that
258 materials priced [by a private company] in 2014 cost about \$29,141.40. (*Copies were distributed to*
259 *councilmembers.*) This is a list of marine contractors. If you're going to do bids, I suggest that we contact
260 all these marine contractors, and ask them to bid. I wasn't able to find a license as a marine contractor
261 for the bidder that submitted a bid for \$174,000. Another bid was deemed nonresponsive. I don't know
262 what that means. Could you explain nonresponsive? Ms. Fellner said the bid was nonresponsive in a
263 number of ways. The main problem was that the bidder did not submit an engineered solution, but

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264 instead said that the town might want to consult an engineer after they did the job. The attorney is the
265 one who said that a bid has to qualify. Mr. Stevens said he didn't want to take the attorney's
266 recommendation, and I'd prefer this to go back to bid with the nine different companies to get a good
267 bid. I am concerned about taxpayers' money. If we spend money, it has to be based on competitive
268 bidding. Ms. Fellner explained that the house being affected is in the R3 district and that the owner is
269 not going to be able to rent it [until this repair is made]; this is a huge liability for the town and it only
270 makes sense to negotiate with those who placed bids and other companies that did not bid to get the
271 lowest price. Ms. Fellner said it will not go out to bid again. Mr. Stevens said it should go out to bid and
272 reiterated his earlier comments about excessive cost. Ms. Fellner reiterated that it would not go out to bid
273 again, unless four councilmembers directed her to do so. Mr. Stevens asked if there were four
274 councilmembers that didn't want to waste money again. Mayor Childs said that concurrence could not be
275 sought at this time.

276
277 Mr. Courtney said I attended the bid opening. I agree with Mr. Stevens. There were two
278 contractors who showed up. The bid was poorly written, because the contractors were looking at each
279 other, because one understood that this was a repair. The other contractor understood that it the whole
280 thing would be taken out and rebuilt. In my opinion, that was a big problem. The difference between a
281 \$174,000 bid and a \$39,000 bid clearly shows there is something wrong. I think it should go out to bid
282 again. As far as the rental house, this should have already been repaired. It should not have taken this
283 long. Something should have been lined up in case we knew this was going to be our problem. I don't
284 agree with an emergency bid.

285
286 Mr. Ott said I looked at it, but I'm not a civil engineer [sic], but those pilings are in very deep.
287 There is no need to replace them. There is a small section that looks like it needs repair. Ms. Fellner said
288 that was her understanding, as well. From the list that Mr. Stevens shared, we contacted three of the
289 nine companies. Myers was the only company that was responsive. Myers provided an estimate of
290 \$18,000 for the repair. Myers is one of the companies that we'll call, and we will look for the lowest price.
291 Mr. Pellegrino said I thought we looked at the companies on this list.

292
293 Mr. Courtney said the organizational committee should meet again to discuss firefighters,
294 because the previous directives never came to light. (**) Ms. Fellner was unclear and asked whether Mr.
295 Courtney wanted the discussion held by the organizational committee or by Town Council at the
296 upcoming budget workshop. Mayor Childs said the budget workshop is just a few weeks off; let's discuss
297 it then. Ms. Fellner said the decision is council's.

298
299 Mr. Pellegrino said we keep throwing this phrase around, 'it just goes away and we don't move
300 forward.' The reason we don't move forward is because we can't just say we're going to spend \$244,000
301 a year to improve public safety; we also have to say we will cut \$244,000 from something else to balance
302 the budget. Don't come to the budget meeting and want this added, if you don't know what you're going
303 to cut. The budget is static; you cannot add a number and not reduce another number. Everyone says
304 they want, they want, they want, but doesn't say what service they will cut. If you don't come with that,
305 it's a waste of time.

306
307 Mayor Childs said Mr. Pellegrino is absolutely right. If we're going to add to, we have to subtract
308 something. I think we have to give this some serious consideration.

309
310 Mr. Courtney said he was good with making progress. This is a matter of wants and needs, so
311 I'm all about making cuts in the budget. The newspaper had an article about a junior firefighter and I
312 want to ask Ms. Fellner if she was aware of this prior to that article. Ms. Fellner said I was aware of this
313 prior to the article. Mr. Courtney said I think it's a shame for this town. Ms. Fellner said before Mr.
314 Courtney said that; Mayor Childs interrupted asking Mr. Courtney if this could be discussed in a meeting
315 with the administrator. I believe you're getting into a legal issue. I think we will get ourselves in trouble.
316 The administrator will be glad to answer all your questions regarding that issue.

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Mr. Ott said this has been in the newspaper. There's nothing secret. The only thing I know is what I read in the newspaper. We'd like to ask the administrator, because there's no comment from the administrator in the newspaper and her name has been put in there. Ms. Fellner said well, there are a couple of things I can say. First of all, neither one of you (Mr. Ott and Mr. Courtney) were on council at the time. Council was aware of this. I did not know this for quite a period of time, and I'm talking months later. So, this was so far after the fact, I'm not comfortable saying anything more at this time. I'm concerned about HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). I know what the attorney suggests, and that's not to say anything in public. I'll be happy to discuss this with councilmembers at any time.

Mr. Courtney said HIPPA has nothing to do with it; it only has to do with the patient or the personnel involved. We're not talking about staff. Ms. Fellner said there is a huge liability for the town here and that is my concern. Mr. Courtney said (**) I'm glad I wasn't on council then.

Mr. Stevens said I was on council and I didn't hear about it until way after the fact. Other councilmembers knew about it two to three weeks before I did. I was left in the dark and finally, it came out. I was upset that this information was withheld from some of the councilmembers. The late Councilmember Magliette said he was in the same situation. We didn't know about it, and should have. I don't like to be the last person that knows. Ms. Fellner said I think this is a lesson for me and I'll do everything in writing from now on. Mr. Stevens said now DHEH (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is investigating. Ms. Fellner said just because something is in the press does not make it so. Mr. Stevens said I understand that, but it's still there. I've got people calling me right now. The town is embarrassed; I'm embarrassed. God forbid, if that had been my daughter. I would have been very upset.

Mr. Ott said I find this very troubling, especially if you kept this a secret from the town and everybody. If you did do that; I hope you didn't, but if you did do that I would like you to resign as soon as possible, because I don't want that held on our back, if you held that as a secret.

Mayor Childs asked Mr. Ott to hold on. The clerk has a hard time recording everything, so if the audience would please keep the noise down. The recording picks up the whispers and everything, so please stop your conversations.

Mr. Ott said I really hope you didn't do that. If you did that I've lost all respect for you. If you held that as a secret and it took two years for this to come out, it's a disgrace to our town. Total disgrace and I wish you would go, if you did that I don't want you in my town. Thank you.

Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Ott, I was on council and shortly after Ms. Fellner found out, I knew. Mr. Ott said you're guilty, too, then. Mr. Pellegrino said we went through a process, Mr. Ott. Mr. Ott said there is no process. It's two years old. Mayor Childs gavelled Mr. Ott saying Mr. Pellegrino has the floor. Mr. Pellegrino said I knew. We went through a process. The police were involved. We did investigations on everyone who was involved, and we took care of the problem, the person responsible for the problem, and we went through the appropriate process. There was no secret. You may disagree with the process, and that's fine, but you can't accuse [Ms. Fellner] of keeping secrets, because she did find out after the fact. Once she found out, she let everyone know so we could do a proper investigation. Mr. Ott said it was terrible. Mr. Pellegrino said Mr. Ott, you don't even know the details of the investigation and what happened, and you're saying it's terrible. This is a problem with council right now. We make all these accusations based on no facts. Mr. Ott said the fact that there are signed affidavits and the fact that you kept it from the public, [Mr. Pellegrino] you are as guilty as [Ms. Fellner] is in this.

368 Mr. Courtney asked if procedures were followed and paper work generated on this. Ms. Fellner
369 said I would like to meet in private to discuss this. I followed exactly what the attorney said to the letter.
370 Mr. Courtney asked who the attorney was at that time. Ms. Fellner said Mike Battle.

371
372 **7. BUSINESS**

373
374 **A. Second Reading Ordinance #17-0838 Chapter 17, Sign Ordinance, Administrator**
375 **Fellner.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt second reading of Ordinance #17-0838 as presented. Mayor Childs
376 second. Ms. Fellner presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. No
377 amendments or changes were made at first reading. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

378
379 **B. First Reading Ordinance #17-0842, Section 12-67 Obstructions on the Beach,**
380 **Councilmember Courtney.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0842 as
381 presented. Mr. Courtney second. Mr. Ott said as discussed at the last meeting, the beach is wider on the
382 north side of town that would accommodate an emergency lane. But on the south end there is something
383 going wrong. Every year the beach gets smaller. This is why I asked Ms. Fellner if she could talk with the
384 Army Corp of Engineers to see if they can find out why this happens. I've lived here 17 years, and the
385 beach is smaller every year on the south end, while the beach on the north end appears to be getting
386 wider. There would be no problem putting anything on the north side, because you have plenty of beach.
387 The other problem I see here is the lifeguard stands are not as high as some of the beach tents. If they
388 pull back so far, the lifeguard cannot see down his line of sight; it's obstructed by the tops of the tents. I
389 believe we need to see if there is a process we can enter into to widen the beach on the south end. Mr.
390 Courtney said I wanted to bring this issue forward, because the tents pose a safety issue. I asked the
391 chief lifeguard to come to address council.

392
393 Mr. Stevens moved to suspend rules to allow Chief Hofmann and Mr. Bill Bigham, Beach Services,
394 Ltd. (friendly amendment) to address Town Council. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION**
395 **CARRIED.**

396
397 Mr. Courtney asked Chief Hofmann how obstructions have damaged response times. Chief
398 Hofmann said this issue has been ongoing for years. In 2013, the town was the last community along the
399 beach that allowed tents. He said I've always been of the opinion that tents were good. They provide
400 shade and sun protection for small children and elderly adults. However, I've spent some time on the
401 beach over the past two years, and even went on the beach today. Some residents are here tonight that
402 were on the beach today while I was checking it. The amount of sand real estate that's available on the
403 south end of the beach right now is concerning from a public safety point of view. Last year it was bad.
404 This year I'm worried. We bought a tent last year for one of our visitors, because the beach Gator tire
405 caught the tie down pole and destroyed their tent when the team was responding to a call. Emergency
406 response personnel are having to wind in and out among the tents to navigate the beach. Despite my
407 previous opinion, I am concerned that we could be putting public safety at risk if we continue to allow
408 tents at this time due to the condition of our beach. I've spent a lot of time thinking about this, and I feel
409 pretty strongly about it.

410
411 Mr. Stevens said basically Chief Hofmann, you are saying the tents are causing problems for
412 public safety. Chief Hofmann said yes. Mr. Stevens said safety comes first; a life is very important. I
413 believe that. When I was a lifeguard, people just used umbrellas. Those with small children can use a
414 tent that is about 3 feet by 3 feet to provide shade. I've seen the pictures that someone described as
415 looking like a refugee camp; it does. The beaches are clean in Garden City. I don't see any benefit. If one
416 of the reasons is public safety, I'm all for that. I want to protect our tourists, and children. God forbid
417 that a child run out from a tent and gets hit by a Gator. Chief Hofmann said during high tide on the south
418 end of the beach there might be between 20 and 25 feet of sand, if we're lucky. So during the busy
419 summer it's a challenge.

420

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421 Mayor Childs said my opinion is that we have been warned by the acting chief of police as well as
422 the chief lifeguard. If something happens and council does not take action, I think that this town would
423 be liable for anything that might happen, if we didn't heed the warning of the experts.
424

425 Mr. Courtney said that the chief of lifeguards shared information with him, copies of which were
426 given to councilmembers. He said I was surprised to find that last summer Beach Services lifeguards
427 successfully found 31 missing children. Personnel had to navigate among the tents to find these children.
428 I've heard comments that parents should keep a better eye on their children. I don't want to hear that. I
429 have two children. When we go on vacation, if you turn your head for one minute, if you're not used to
430 the beach, the kids can get lost very easily. There are no easy landmarks like groins or jetties on our
431 beach. Once the kids take off, they don't know which way they're heading.
432

433 Mr. Stevens said it was previously said that some realty companies had advertised tents. I went
434 to several companies that rent in town for brochures and visited their websites. I didn't see tents
435 mentioned in any of them. I think that statement was made in error or to influence a decision. He asked
436 Mr. Bigham how tents on the beach cause problems.
437

438 Mr. Bigham said when tents are placed on the beach they are placed side-by-side-by-side. When
439 several tents are joined together, there is no way to navigate between them. The only place emergency
440 vehicles can travel is either behind the tents or at the water line during low tide. At high tide, you can't
441 navigate the beach at all. The reason all other beaches in the county banned tents was for public safety.
442 Tents take up too much room and congest the beach. Police, lifeguards, and emergency personnel
443 cannot do their jobs properly, because of the congestion caused by tents.
444

445 Mr. Ott said he thought about the photographs council was shown when he went to the beach at
446 high tide to try to imagine how emergency equipment and personnel would get on scene. He asked Chief
447 Hofmann if we needed an emergency lane. Chief Hofmann said the proposed ordinance includes an 8
448 foot lane by the dune line that would be kept clear of obstructions for emergency vehicles. Mr. Ott said
449 based on the beach width of about 20 feet at high tide, were people ever asked to clear a path for
450 emergency response calls. Chief Hofmann said the lane is used frequently during the summer season not
451 only for ocean rescues, but also for tourists being stung by stingrays or jelly fish bites, cardiac issues, etc.
452 It is crucial that utility vehicles have access to get the injured or sick off the beach and to EMS personnel
453 as quickly as possible. Obviously, taking gurneys on the sand and getting other equipment on the beach
454 is not practical. A path along the dune line will aid rescue response time for both the fire department and
455 EMS crews.
456

457 Mr. Courtney said he discussed the emergency lane at the dune line with Chief Hofmann. It is
458 less likely that children will play along the dune line, so the emergency lane can remain clear or be easily
459 cleared.
460

461 Mr. Stevens moved to reconvene regular session. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION**
462 **CARRIED.**
463

464 Mr. Pellegrino said I do understand the issues on the south side; [the beach] is nonexistent
465 during high tide. I've received tons of email from people that want us to keep allowing tents. As I've said
466 from the start, I represent full time residents, and part time residents, and second homeowners, and
467 businesses. I would certainly agree with a tent ban on the south end, but I will not vote for a tent ban on
468 the entire beach.
469

470 Mayor Childs, Mayor Pro Tempore Ott, and Councilmembers Courtney, and Stevens voted in
471 favor. Councilmember Pellegrino voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**
472

473 **C. Resolution #17-179, Memorandum of Understanding with Pier Outfitters,**
474 **Administration Fellner.** Mr. Stevens moved to adopt Resolution #17-179 as presented. Mr. Courtney
475 second. Ms. Fellner presented the resolution, a copy of which is on file. She explained that Pier Outfitters
476 lease would expire this year, and based on Town Council's directives at a previous meeting, negotiations
477 were made with Mr. Kramer to extend the lease agreement one additional year, because the pier was
478 damaged during Hurricane Matthew. The resolution represents the full agreement between the town and
479 Pier Outfitters. Mr. Ott said he wanted everyone to know that [Mr. Kramer] was working with the town
480 and we are also requesting that if the pier is completely shut down because of pier construction, he will
481 have his rent prorated. Everybody needs to understand that. Mr. Stevens said everyone needs to
482 understand that this lease only extends to December 31, 2018. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
483

484 **D. Planning Commission Appointment (1 Term Expiring). Volunteers: Mr. Al Lauer, Mr.**
485 **John Dougherty, Mr. Paul Holder.** Mr. Courtney moved to appoint Mr. Al Lauer to serve an additional
486 four year term on the planning commission. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
487

488 Mayor Childs said I would like to tell others that volunteered for the position that we do
489 appreciate it, but Mr. Lauer is presently on the commission and has done a good job. We'd like to keep
490 members on the board that have done a good job. For those of you who would like to get on these
491 committees and boards, I do encourage you to keep trying. We look at all the volunteers that we get. So,
492 thank you for trying.
493

494 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION** – Any matters of concern or information to be discussed.
495

496 **A. Resolution to Change Meeting Times, Councilmember Courtney.** Mr. Courtney said the
497 resolution should actually be to change the meeting day to Monday for the meetings that conflict with the
498 summer Hula shows and Beach Luau. Council **CONCURRED to bring a resolution under business**
499 **at the next meeting to change the meeting days to Monday.**
500

501 **B. Parking Committee Recommendations, Administrator Fellner.** This matter deferred.
502 See Agenda Item 3, Agenda Approval.
503

504 **C. Any matters of concern or information to be discussed by Town Council.**
505

506 Mr. Stevens said I've been introduced to a man that said he will dispose of the town's electronic
507 waste for free. I know you're all aware of the electronic waste codes. Over the last 23 months we've
508 spent \$15,496.41 on electronic wastes. He will pick it up and recycle it. Right now we pay a big
509 corporation out of California to do it at a rate of \$677 dollars per month. That doesn't take long to add
510 up. I'll be glad to send the information to all of council and the administrator. It seems to me if we can
511 get this done for free rather than paying out to some big corporation, it makes more sense. We may have
512 spent more than that, but in less than two years, we've spent that much money. There's an old saying,
513 "cut a little here; cut a little there, and get spending down to where it needs to be." We're spending way
514 too much money. We're getting bids that are way too high. We're spending too much on engineering. So
515 anyway we can help the taxpayers save a dime, dimes add up to dollars. Dollars add up to hundreds of
516 dollars. Hundreds of dollars add up to thousands of dollars. I want to bring this back to council, and I'll
517 send you all the information. I think it would behoove us to actually meet the guy; let him come to our
518 budget meeting, and tell us what he can do. He said there is a possibility that through some of his
519 vendors he may be able to get rid of some of our other recycling parts.
520

521 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Comments.** (5-minutes per speaker)
522

523 Mr. Gary White: I just want to say (**) I want to talk about the tents. I know they don't have
524 any room on the south side, but I don't like the idea of doing the whole beach. (**) I still feel people
525 should be allowed to have tents to protect themselves on the beach. (**) You put too many rules on

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526 things, and pretty soon, people won't want to come. They might come here. I live here. But, I don't think
527 we should be (**).

528
529 Mr. Tom Dodge, 15th Avenue North: I totally agree with Ms. Fellner, you can't believe everything
530 you read in the newspaper. But, I did read this story, and there's an expression that you're treated like a
531 mushroom; you get a lot of horse manure, and kept in the dark. This just proves just how dark it is here.
532 We just do not have transparency in this town. Somebody's gotta be telling the people that are here that
533 pay all these taxes what is going on in this town. We don't know. You keep it away from us. Thank you.
534

535 Mr. Harry Kohlmann, South Ocean Boulevard: I'd like to speak about the parking committee
536 recommendations. We've spent years bringing up these recommendations. Some of them are very, very
537 important. You deferred it again. The funny thing is that Ms. Fellner asked if I could come tonight, just in
538 case you had any questions. Not only did I come tonight, so we can get this stuff done, I came this
539 morning. Myself, I saw Mayor Childs, the clerk, but nobody else. Now, if you don't like something on our
540 recommendation, that's fine. Let's discuss it; vote on it, let's get it going. We have very, very serious
541 things going on. On Surfside Drive there are businesses that need some of these recommendations done.
542 You've put it off again. It doesn't make sense, folks. Some of these recommendations, I don't even think
543 they have to go before council, because it could be done by the administrator. I don't get it. We spend a
544 lot of time, lot of effort on these parking recommendations. Sometimes you don't take 'em. Sometimes
545 you deny them, and then four years later you realize we were right and you put them in. But we spend a
546 lot of time doing this. Defer it, table it, I don't know what you did. But you spend a lot of time talking
547 about firefighters. I've been in fire service. I used to be a volunteer fireman. I was a police officer. I've
548 been in many fires. Chief says you need four people, you need four people. Not this shell game you're
549 playing. Oh, we have two county staff. They might be here, but they might not be here. You're gonna
550 have a fire and you're gonna send two guys there and hope a couple of volunteers come out? Some of
551 the guys that work in Horry County are volunteers, too. You've got volunteers down in Garden City. We
552 spend a lot of money here, folks. We have a public works director get up every year and he asks for a
553 new garbage truck. He needs another front end loader. You all say, yeah, yeah, whatever you want. Take
554 it, [Mr. Adair], take it. It's yours. He wants a laborer he didn't need for six months, but he wants him for
555 a year next year. The first reason was, well, we can't find anybody who wants to work seasonal, part
556 time. Bing! (*Speaker's emphasis.*) Are you kidding me? And then, when that didn't work, the next story is
557 well, we really need him, because next year we have projects we're gonna do. The man rolls out garbage
558 cans. You're putting your priorities wrong. You're believing your directors; the game is this: I need two
559 garbage trucks. So, I ask for three, and you guys give him three. It's logic; it's negotiation. You
560 understand? You ask for one and you expect you're gonna get, but you guys give every single thing they
561 ask for. Thank you.
562

563 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive: Surfside Drive got paved. I didn't realize it was gonna
564 get paved. We weren't really all this aware Surfside Drive was gonna get paved, and it did. You had the
565 money for it real quick, and you put in those curbs that by golly, as much as I've been driving a long
566 time, I run into 'em. There's expensive. Oh, my God, I don't like that paving job, and then you bought at
567 some point, this town bought a historical property. I don't see anybody really using that historical
568 property, but you did have nice something there a couple of months ago, and that was very, very
569 expensive. Me and Ralph moved here because we like the police department and we like the fire
570 department. ISO1, and now you're quibbling over two more firemen, which is a necessity to a maintain
571 ISO1, not to mention necessity in case a life needs to be saved, which will eventually happen. We're
572 finding no money to pay for these fireman, but we've got money to buy big old historical property and
573 pave a street where the even the people who live on it didn't know it was getting paved till the last
574 minute and those horrible curbs, and there is some waste in this town, and there is a lack of
575 transparency, but where firemen are concerned, my God, just do it, because if you've got out of towners
576 vacationing here and they die because of lack of firemen you've got law suit written all over you. So,
577 please, consider the firemen. Be safe. Err on the side of safety and concern and drop some of these non-
578 necessary items and go with the safety. Thank you.

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Sherry Hortle, 1st Avenue North: There's a lot of talk tonight about safety, and I agree with a lot of the comments that I'm hearing tonight. First of all, I'd like to thank the police department for all they do. I realize what a difficult and dangerous job it is, because I have a lot of family and friends in the police department ranks. One family member was shot in the chest during a drug bust. Luckily for him, his mother, who happened to be one of the first female officers to walk a beat in Philly, she called him that morning to remind him to wear his vest and it saved his life. He suffered a few cracked ribs, but he was able to return to work. My uncle wasn't as lucky. He was shot in the face while trying to apprehend a robbery suspect. His injuries were permanent and career ending. So, if I sound passionate about training and education and us working to keep us safe, it's because I know from personal experience. I mourned with my neighbors when an officer who was a policeman and the father of six young children was gunned down all because he was a police officer. I believe Blue Lives matter. While training, education, and experience may not adequately prepare our police and fire department personnel in every situation, it could be the difference between life and death. I bet it would've made a difference in the situation in the fire department that Ms. Fellner kept from us. The family of the man who died trusted the emergency personnel to try and save him; not to use him as a Guinea pig. The family of the teenage girl who performed CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) on him, when trained experienced personnel should have done it, they have to be furious. I can't imagine how scarred this young girl must be. But equally deplorable is the fact that it was kept secret from the residents. Why? It makes me wonder if there was some sort of private payoff involved, because there were two people with lawsuits. Let's be real. Why was former Fire Chief Anthony Fox relieved of his position? The article stated he wasn't present during the incident. Now, don't get me wrong. I believe that he should be held accountable for the actions of his staff, as much as Ms. Fellner should be for her former employees Tammy Gardner. Remember her? She embezzled nearly \$50,000 of the town's money over the course of three years. That was three years. Shouldn't there have been some sort of audit procedures in place to prevent this from happening or at least to enable the town to discover the crime sooner? And, yes, it is a crime. Embezzlement is a crime, no matter how much she wants to (**). That crime was committed against the taxpayers in this town. There is so much secrecy in this town; opening bids behind closed doors to diverting questions about a \$9,999 check written last December to the Clemson University Foundation. The Foundation is a charitable organization offering donor perks, did you know that? Like football and basketball tickets, but we've been told that it's for landscaping design. So, let's see the invoice, the contract, and the design plans. Then I might believe it is legitimate. I like this place. I really do. It's beautiful and there's a lot of good people here. I just think we deserve things like honesty, integrity, transparency, and confidence from our paid administrator and also from our elected officials. Is that too much to ask?

Holly Watson, Oak Drive, North: A few weeks ago I came in here to a workshop where you were studying whether or not to increase our water bills, because there had been a study from roughly a year and a half and you came up with some calculations about how all of us could pay another \$25 or \$30 a month for stormwater. You didn't pass that, and I'm tickled to death you didn't. But at that time I gave all of you a list of places to go for grants. It was over 800 areas and places to go and each area had more sub-areas within the 800 places to go for grants. It amazes me that every time we mention something about maybe needing two firefighters, or we need a swash wall built, or whatever the easy thing to do is go right back to the taxpayers and say well, we gotta raise taxes. We don't have the money. If you have to add something then you have to cut services or we're gonna have to raise your taxes. North Myrtle Beach, Conway, and all surrounding areas get millions and millions of dollars in grants. We don't get anything. We're not trying. Why do we consistently go back to the taxpayers and the businesses and say we're gonna load it back on you? Why are we not getting our grants? Why are we not trying for them? Why don't we even investigate them? I would love to come to a council meeting and have you inform us that we just obtained three or four million dollars worth of grants. Everybody else does it, why can't we? If we're going by what everybody else does, everybody else gets millions and millions of dollars in grants. What did you do with the list? The administrator has the list. Now the thing is I am confused about the money. If you can have a consensus to vote on an ordinance, why can't you

632 have a consensus on a different item? All of a sudden we can't have consensus on this, but we can go
633 ahead and vote on something. Something's not right there. (**) Explain that. Thank you.
634

635 Judy Kidd, 11th Avenue North: It's my understanding that you're operating under *Robert's Rules*
636 *of Order*. Under *Robert's Rules of Order*, majority rules. If you have a quorum here, the majority votes.
637 So tonight, the magic number was three, not four. Second, how many of you have ever been to the ER
638 (emergency room) and had CPR administered by a 16 year old? When you call out EMS (emergency
639 medical service) you expect to have qualified people, and if they are available, you want to have it
640 administered by a qualified person. Not a 16 year old who is not supposed to be there after ten o'clock.
641 Transparency, I don't think they, she knows the definition of transparency. Second, or third, I would like
642 to request a list of equipment that has been purchased over the last ten years, and the disposition of that
643 major piece of equipment now. If it's no longer in the town, I'd like to see the sale order. I'd like to see
644 what the town recovered for it, and I'd like to see where the equipment is, because when we replace
645 equipment on a regular schedule, then we need to have a list of equipment that (a) we have, (b) you're
646 gonna have it in storage, or we've disposed of it. If we've disposed of it, the taxpayer needs to know
647 what was it paid for [sic]. Let's go for transparency, and maybe some of you could learn *Robert's Rules of*
648 *Order*, because there were five of you here tonight, it only took three.
649

650 Carol Cook, 7th Avenue South: I attended the pier workshop, and Ms. Fellner provided options for
651 changing the footprint on the pier, such as adding a third business or public restrooms. But at the same
652 time the town does not have a report from a structural engineer or any information from FEMA regarding
653 how much of the pier they would actually cover. As residents, we can't make any decision regarding the
654 pier until we have that information available. So, I would request that once the information is available,
655 that the town reschedule a workshop so that we can actually make an informed decision. We also were
656 presented with a financial option for finance of the \$250,000 out of every \$1 million that FEMA would
657 cover. So, I would also like to have financial options such as bonds or, God forbid, raising our taxes to
658 pay for the pier. The other thing I would like to propose is a change to Ordinance Chapter 2, Article III,
659 Division One, Section 2-18, Term of Mayor and Council. The period of four years needs to be changed to
660 a limit of two consecutive terms. The last election proved that we have more than enough people who
661 are qualified and willing to serve on council, so we need to give these people an opportunity by limiting
662 the number of terms to help ensure new perspectives will always be available (**) objectivity on council.
663 Thank you.
664

665 Carol Holt, Yaupon Drive North: I just want to take a few moments, I know it's late, but just to
666 thank the Town Council and Mayor for postponing the first reading of the landscaping and tree ordinance.
667 It's my understanding that workshop is going to be held next Tuesday, April 18th at five o'clock, not six
668 o'clock, at five o'clock. The workshop will give the town residents the opportunity to review the ordinance
669 again and express any concerns they may still have with the revised document. The planning commission
670 devoted many hours to rewriting the document, and their efforts were certainly appreciated. However,
671 the time they spent is not a reason to automatically approve the ordinance, if the document still does not
672 fully address the concerns expressed by town residents or the instructions from Town Council to the
673 planning commission. A good example is the sign ordinance. How many hours and months were spent on
674 that document before it was forwarded to Town Council for first reading? I think it's better to spend the
675 time now than have the same issues brought to Town Council again in five or six months. Thank you.
676

677 10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

678

679 Mr. Ott: Let me say one thing, I've been sitting in this seat for a year, and believe me, I'm
680 always disappointed with things I find. I don't like finding things in newspapers that happened in the
681 town that should never happen. I believe we shouldn't be wasting the town's money and time looking for
682 a police chief when we have one. It just doesn't make any sense. I'm sure our attorney would do exactly
683 as he is told. I've seen it many times. Again, I've been very disappointed in what I see. For the parking
684 commission, I would like to see a show and tell. I could go with the Mayor (**) I didn't understand a lot

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685 of things; why we put signs down there. There's probably a logical answer why we want to remove them
686 or change 'em. I just needed more information, and I knew the Mayor was in consensus with me. I would
687 like to understand just a couple of things and just hold off on; there's a lot of things in that paper; just
688 hold off till we've got two or three and we understand it better. It will go through. We will make changes.
689 Why no grants? Well, that's a great question, isn't it? We just don't have time. We don't want to do it.
690 Too much work? I don't know, but I would love to hear the real reason why we don't do it, and it's
691 gonna be 'oh, we don't have anybody to do it.' The idea that I read in the paper, the one thing I couldn't
692 understand is why there was an underage volunteer there on a school night after ten o'clock (**). She's
693 out there with these, with this EMS wagon, and I'm sure she's not getting home till after twelve. Why did
694 that happen? I don't know. Has there been any regulations put in this place since? Probably not, because
695 everything's been hushed up. I just can't understand why that'd ever happen. As we look for; we don't
696 have all the matching funds for beach renourishment, and as the citizen said, we figured and this is
697 management, we knew beach renourishment was coming up and we bought, and we put in parking
698 spaces, like we needed parking spaces. We did on Surfside Drive. We could've waited and so we did the
699 right thing and had the money in place for beach renourishment. This council needs to look and see why
700 we're losing beach on the south end. This is very important, because I believe, if we let it go, we're just
701 going to have the dune and nothing else. That's all that's gonna be there. I don't go there on the south
702 end that often, but I just went down there and it's noticeably shallow. We should've managed; this was a
703 management problem. Why didn't we manage the funds? We bought a property with dying trees on it,
704 because we thought we needed it. I wasn't on council. I'm not making that as an excuse, but we have
705 somebody that's supposedly administrating this town, managing this town. Use the money properly and it
706 should've been, we should never not have the money for beach renourishment. Our main source of
707 income in this town is the beach. And we should not ever not have that money in place. Thank you for
708 coming out. I think a lot of people are disappointed. Thank you very much.

709
710 Mr. Courtney: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. Again, on the tent issue, there's a
711 reason why Horry County, Myrtle Beach, and North Myrtle Beach banned tents. You need a place to
712 access when there's an emergency so they can get there. Going on to grants, I'm all for grants. I've been
713 asking for that SAFER grant for almost a year now, and we're not getting anywhere with it. Going on to
714 the parking committee, it was three of the councilmembers that were not ready. They took a look; I
715 deferred it for a reason. I didn't table it. I deferred it. So, we can bring it back. We have some questions
716 that need to be answered. I'd like to get with Mr. Kohlmann when I get a chance, we can set up an
717 appointment, but we had some questions about it. Some of the problems with that was we're redoing 3rd
718 Avenue South to create more parking spots, before I start (**) putting more signs on Surfside Drive,
719 when want to get a whole picture of what was gonna go on with that. That's one of the reasons why we
720 need to speak with the parking committee. ALS versus BLS; basic life support versus advance life
721 support. When you call that ambulance, you expect to get ALS at your door; not BLS. BLS is second or
722 it's in the beginning and comes there, then ALS arrives. That's what you want at your door. If you're in
723 cardiac arrest, you don't want BLS there, you want ALS. I'll leave that alone. Again, we're making cuts,
724 okay. We're gonna make cuts in the right areas, where we need to make them, but not in services.
725 That'd be the last place we're making cuts. We'll be making a lot of cuts this year, but it's not gonna be in
726 services. Pier comments, I agree with the person who got up here and mentioned about the pier
727 comments. They're right. We never discussed where we're gonna get the money for it. We are going be
728 responsible a percentage of that. We're gonna have to come up with that money, so it has not been
729 discussed and it should be discussed. We haven't gotten anything back from the administrator yet on
730 where we stand with that. When we find out where we stand with [FEMA] we'll know where we stand
731 with the pier. That's all I have to say. Thank you very much. Have a good day.

732
733 Mr. Pellegrino: Thanks for coming. I'm fine also with staffing up the fire department, if that's
734 what our chief thinks he needs for \$244,000 a year, but we need to find that money and take it out of
735 the budget. You can go back and look at the record, I voted no to 3rd Avenue South land purchase. I vote
736 no on all dump trucks. I vote no on all new trash trucks. So, go back and look at the record. There is a
737 lot of things that we've approved in the past that we don't necessarily need. But, we can probably find

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738 that money, but we need to do that at budget meeting. We can't just say we're going to add. As far as
739 the investigation on this issue with the junior firefighter that came up, that was an issue that came up
740 some time ago, and there was an investigation done. We identified the root cause through the
741 investigation. We resolved the situation so it won't happen again. (**) I would not think about talking
742 about that situation here on the dais as far as a transparency issue, because that's not fair to the girl
743 involved, or the fire station. I'm not a lawyer. I don't know what to say. I don't know how to prevent a
744 lawsuit. How am I gonna express that to the public. I mean what do you think I am? This is ridiculous. If
745 there's a statement to be made, it should be made by the town lawyer, because he knows what to say so
746 the town doesn't get sued. I can't apologize for not letting you know, because I wouldn't know what to
747 say in a million years. I don't even know what process to go through for that. That was an extensive
748 investigation. The root cause was found, and it was addressed, so it won't happen again. It was screw-
749 up. It was a terrible mistake. It's awful that it happened. But, it did, and the right follow up was done,
750 and it won't happen again. As far as the meetings, I know some council people mentioned they are
751 disappointed. I'm disappointed, too. Literally, we sit up here and we flog our employees. We may as well
752 get stocks or whipping posts. I mean, I'm all for questioning and asking a couple of questions. But, we
753 interject guilt without facts very often. For some in the public, I truly appreciate that you come up with
754 very well thought out, very fact based statements. And then there's other people who come up just with
755 supposition that's based on absolutely no fact. So, from us up here and everyone here, we need to work
756 on that. We can go and say whatever you want, some people will believe it; some won't. We need to try
757 to base stuff on facts. Lately, our level of respect towards other people all around us is at a minimum, in
758 my opinion. It's frustrating me, but I just think that's something we really need to work on, because
759 there's absolutely no trust between anyone around here. Some of it's warranted, I agree. Not all of it is.
760 That's just something we really need to work on. Thank you very much for coming, have a great night.

761
762 Mr. Stevens: Ms. Watson mentioned grants, and that's a good question. Why aren't we going for
763 all the grants we can get? Why do we have to keep going to the taxpayers? That's all they want to do is
764 raise the taxes. I vote against taxes every time. We need to use a little common sense, and look for ways
765 to cut our spending. We need to deal with our needs and not our wants. We have a big old piece of
766 property sitting over there at 3rd Avenue South. It's got no trespassing [posted.] Guess who bought it?
767 You did. The taxpayers bought it and you can't even go over there and sit on the property. It's a shame.
768 There's no transparency. I've seen it here. I've seen it in council meetings. I've seen it on the other side
769 where you are. There's no transparency. We talk about, Mr. Kohlmann talked about; every time public
770 works comes up they want to buy a new gadget, buy new this, buy new that. Yet, we don't want to add
771 a couple of firemen that might save a life. We don't need a \$500,000 garbage truck every three years.
772 (**) It's ridiculous. We've gotta live; we're living beyond our means, not within our means. I guarantee
773 you there's not a lady out here that she looks at her checkbook every week and she tells her husband
774 you can't spend that money. My wife tells me every day. I want to buy a new boat. She ain't gonna let
775 me, because I want a boat, but I don't need a boat. I've got friends who can take me. Surfside Drive,
776 what if we had taken that money and put it to beach renourishment? That would've been some good
777 money to spend towards beach renourishment. Then we have all these paved places and really, the only
778 thing I can see different is that is when I set up a tent on Surfside Drive I set it in a parking space for a
779 festival. I'd like to see some benches over at the historical park. At least let the citizens use it instead of
780 no trespassing signs. At least you could go place bocce ball in this town. By the way, *Roberts Rules of*
781 *Order*, I remember when they voted to outlaw docks in this town. There were three people that didn't
782 come to that meeting, but there were four people. They passed docks with four people. They could've
783 passed it with three, because four was a quorum. That gives you kind of an idea of what we have to look
784 at. We've got a pier, another pier workshop, and I hope that we do something on the pier. I think
785 somebody mentioned that we can get money for 1.4-percent. We should be able to get grants for the
786 pier. There's a lot of things that I don't agree with. I've basically been embarrassed by what's been going
787 on in the paper the last couple of weeks. I'm asking myself what's next. What are we gonna read next? I
788 hope it's not gonna read anything else next, but I'm very disappointed. That's what I can say. I'm very
789 disappointed that we, and I'll tell you, I was the last councilmember to get that information. Mr.
790 Pellegrino might have gotten it before me, but I was the last one. I'm the low man on the totem pole

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791 even though I'm sitting up here. Anyway, thank y'all for coming out. I'm glad that y'all get up here and
792 speak, because if you don't tell us what's wrong, we won't know. We don't know everything. I'm sure
793 there's a lot of stuff out here we (**), I think that, I wish that all of y'all could come to the budget
794 meeting, and tell us, hey, you can cut that out. You can cut this. You can cut that. Usually only two or
795 three people show up for the budget meeting. So, I'm personally inviting y'all to the budget meeting.
796 Come and tell us how to cut money on the 27th of April at 9:00 a.m. Thank y'all for coming and have a
797 good week. Enjoy this great weather we're having.
798

799 Unknown speaker asked if it was true that the public could not speak at the budget meeting.
800 Mayor Childs said that was not true; the public would have an opportunity to speak.
801

802 Mayor Childs: Well, everybody has kind of hit on everything. I'm just going to say something
803 about the pier. We have a bid for the engineer the 13th of this month. We hope to have the engineer's
804 report by mid-June to tell us exactly what we need to know. We don't know the amount of money,
805 because we don't know exactly what we have to do. Until we find that out, we can't put any dollars to it.
806 Thank everybody for coming out.
807

808 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Mr.
809 Courtney second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
810

811 Prepared and submitted by,

812 _____
813 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
814

815 Approved: April 25, 2017
816

817 _____
818 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor
819

820 _____
821 Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore
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820 _____
821 Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council
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823 _____
824 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council
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823 _____
824 David L. Pellegrino, Town Council
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826 _____
827 Julie M. Samples, Town Council
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826 _____
827 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council
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829 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
830 and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
831 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive.
832 In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local
833 media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry
834 door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at
835 www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.
836