



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 27, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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 Pellegrino, and Councilmembers Dietrich, Johnson, Ott, Scoles, and Stevens were in attendance. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Attorney Crosby; Town Administrator Pieper; Town Clerk Herrmann; Finance Director King; Fire Chief Otte; Planning, Building & Zoning Director Morris; Police Chief Hofmann; Public Works Director Adair, and Events Supervisor Ellis.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Reverend Franklyn Ward, Timberlake Baptist Church, gave the invocation. **B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Childs led the Pledge.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Regular Meeting November 13, 2018. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the November 13, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only. There were no comments.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Employee Award. James Behrens, 10 years. Mayor Childs and Chief Otte presented Mr. Behrens with a service award plaque, pin, and check to celebrate his ten year anniversary in the fire department. He received a standing ovation.

B. Department Reports.

i. Events. Supervisor Ellis presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

ii. Finance. Director King presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. She explained that revenue was down, because we did not receive as much FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) money this year. Lanier Parking revenue is down \$80,000 from last year, which will need to be made up. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was distributed to councilmembers. Staff is currently working on the FY19-20 Budget. Mr. Stevens said for the record, "I see you got our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. It was laying here on the dais for all the councilmen, and I just wanted to go over a couple of things, and just, and this, for the record, to make sure, I'd like this to be verbatim on the record, I noticed last year in 2018 we brought in \$1,808,506 in license and permits, and ah, \$676,796 in franchise fees, and also property taxes of \$2,926,341. If I recall, you said that basically 80 percent of our property taxes come from businesses. Is that correct?" Ms. King said yes. Mr. Stevens: "Okay, ah, it seems to me like that if we did not have businesses, we would pretty much go under pretty fast, right?" Ms. King said it would be a struggle. Mr. Stevens: "Okay, thank you. I just wanted to clarify that."

iii. Fire. Chief Otte presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Stevens asked if the recently honored fire staff were nominated for state awards. Chief Otte said he would find out when the nominations are open and do so.

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iv. Planning, Building & Zoning. Director Morris presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mayor Childs asked about the delay at the Pickled Cucumber Restaurant. Ms. Morris said they opened in another location, and the project is at the bottom of the contractor's work schedule. Ms. Scoles asked about the renovations at Dollar General. Ms. Morris said she was unaware of renovations and would check.

v. Police. Chief Hofmann presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Stevens asked when another K9 officer would be added to the force. In his opinion, it is vital to have K9 officers to help keep the town drug free, because Horry County has the highest heroin use in the state, but Surfside Beach has the lowest drug use. Mayor Childs asked how K9 officers were evaluated for retirement. Chief Hofmann said decisions are made based on age, medical issues, and the ability to complete physical tasks.

vi. Public Works. Director Adair presented the written report, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ms. Scoles asked when HTC would repair the area where the water main was hit. Mr. Adair said it should be within weeks, but he would follow up.

C. Administrator's Report. Administrator Pieper said staff continues working with FEMA on the hurricane related reimbursements; Category B claims were all filed, and we are waiting on reimbursement. A \$160,000 grant application was submitted to South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the 3rd Avenue South Promenade which was approved; we are waiting for the funds so the project can be bid, hopefully by the end of December with construction starting in 2019. I spoke at the Municipal Association Annual Risk Association meeting recently. Staff continues to work on daily activities. I meet with residents as questions come forward directly from them or that are sent by Town Council.

7. BUSINESS.

A. Transfer Municipal Elections to Horry County, Administrator Pieper. Mr. Pieper explained that a draft ordinance was prepared as instructed at the last meeting; however, it was not presented because Horry County must discuss the transfer and offer its recommendations. There is a question as to whether councilmembers want the town's election to be held in even or odd years. After discussion, **Town Council CONCURRED that the town's general election should be in even numbered years.**

B. Residential Uses in the Entertainment District, Administrator Pieper. Mayor Childs moved to direct the planning commission to consider prohibiting residential uses in the Entertainment District (C-4) [and] make its recommendation to Town Council at the January 22, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Ott second. Mr. Pieper presented the decision paper. Ms. Morris explained that a 30-day notice was required before the planning commission could act on the recommendation. After discussion during which it was noted that there are some residential apartments in the district that need to be considered by the commission, all voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION. There was no discussion.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.

Mr. Tom Dodge, 8th Avenue South, wanted the administrator to respond to questions posed during public comments. He wanted to know the status of the property at 3rd Avenue South and Willow, which still has no trespassing signs posted. If the town isn't going to use it, sell it for the \$400 thousand the town paid. He asked how many lawsuits were outstanding, and by whom were they filed. There is a private roadway at 416 South Willow Drive through town property. Why hasn't that been corrected?

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106 Thanks were given to Ms. Ellis for the Veterans Day service. He supported a town resident who decorates
107 15th Avenue South seasonally, and was appalled the police department was involved after a complaint.
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109 Ms. Patricia Magliette, Harbor Lights Drive, supported moving town elections to the same day as
110 other important elections. K9 officers help keep the town safe, and she hoped another would be found
111 soon. She asked councilmembers to consider voting individually so the audience would see how each one
112 voted.
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114 Ms. Tabitha Mull, 13th Avenue North, (chairman of the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee)
115 said the 'It's a Wonderful Life in Surfside Beach' project has been a great journey and the committee is
116 receiving awesome feedback. She encouraged everyone to be respectful. Town Council and several
117 individuals were thanked for their assistance with the project, contributions, and inspiration, especially
118 the committee members who worked tirelessly for many hours. Beginning December 1, a secret stocking
119 project will begin to spread kindness through the community. The tree lighting is Thursday (November
120 29th) evening; the rock painting party is Friday (November 30th) evening, and December 15th is the
121 Wonderful Life movie at Martin Field. The most important thing that we do is come together as a
122 community for the betterment of our community.
123

124 Ms. Kathy Goddard, 15th Avenue South, said she agreed fully with Ms. Mull. This is a beautiful
125 community, but ruined sometimes by Grinches. I am the one that decorated 15th Avenue South. Police
126 came to my home as many as four times. I believe it was political. Careless, vile actions like that are why
127 the town has so many lawsuits. Bullying and intimidation will not work. I love my town and will fight, if
128 necessary.
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130 Ms. Danielle Taryn, North Myrtle Drive, learned tonight that town was basically a drug free
131 community, but was concerned that drawing more tourists into town would change that, and asked what
132 could be done.
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134 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
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136 Mr. Ott said Merry Christmas to the department directors, because they will not be back for the
137 December meeting. We are a tourist community and have been inviting people to come here for over 50
138 years. We are encouraging the town to be a destination. We do have our own "guns and hoses" (police
139 and fire.) Many towns don't. The tourist industry keeps citizens' taxes low because they pay
140 accommodations and hospitality taxes, and bring revenue in for the town's businesses. Without that
141 income, many people could not afford to live here. Thank you for attending, and thank you to Ms.
142 Goddard for putting the ribbons up. I think they are really nice.
143

144 Mr. Dietrich agreed with Mr. Ott that the town cannot survive without tourism. Multiple monthly
145 reports have included the words "flat and low." If you're in business, those are two words you don't want
146 to hear. As much as we want to conserve the town, we need to grow the town or we are not going to
147 survive. We need to do it wisely and carefully. To the directors, Merry Christmas.
148

149 Mr. Johnson said he has supported moving the town's Election Day for many years, because
150 more voters will participate. We have one meeting in December [on the 11th], please attend.
151

152 Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending and the comments. I appreciate seeing a room
153 almost full of people who are concerned about our town. That is what makes this a good town and helps
154 us make good decisions.
155

156 Ms. Scoles thanked every for attending. Thank you to the town administrator and the department
157 directors for their hard work. A special thank you was given to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful

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158 Committee. The members have done an awesome job! You've kept everyone informed and I'm looking
159 forward to the events. Everyone, please come to the tree lighting.
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161 Mr. Stevens said, "On the record, and verbatim, when I rode down 15th Avenue a few months
162 ago, or I don't know how long it was, I saw these beautiful flags up and down the street, and I thought,
163 boy, the town is really going all out. This must be part of that ah Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful and it
164 really, it was really impressed by it. Then I found out there was through a conversation or email there
165 was a Grinch in town and that happens a lot. Every Christmas there's always a Grinch somewhere around
166 trying to spoil everything, and we need to embrace Christmas. December, Christmas, Merry Christmas to
167 all of you. We need to embrace Christmas and we need to cherish the time with our families and enjoy
168 these times. This is, this is important. We've got a committee that's gone, and a matter of fact, I was out
169 buying ribbons to put around my Palm trees and things. I've gotta get some more stuff; some more
170 lights. I've got things on a timer to come on. I got a lot more to do. Ah, but I want to see this whole
171 town lit up and if it's flags on telephone poles, what, what's, what's the harm? What's the harm? It's
172 beautiful. It's Christmas. It's time to love your neighbor, and love one another. That's what Christmas is
173 all about. Giving, and loving your fellow neighbor. Ah, a lady came up there, and I, I couldn't quite
174 understand what she was saying, but ah, I'm pro-business. I support businesses. Businesses pay over 80
175 percent of the property taxes. They paid \$1,800,000 in license fees and permits last year. They paid
176 \$676,000 in. ah, franchise fees. If we didn't have businesses, I don't know what we would do. I don't
177 know where, how we would pay for anything. So, if I be; if I'm a pro-business, so be it. I like, I like pro-
178 business. I like the fact that this country now is the number one oil producing nation in the world, and I
179 just talked to my brother today, and it was, gas was a \$1.79 in Texas. It's a \$1.99 right down here at
180 Kroger, I believe. I love gas prices, cause what a Christmas present? Gas prices going down for America.
181 Man that, that, that is great. I'm for America being successful. I'm for Surfside being successful, and the
182 only way we can be successful and have the money to spend and have all these good things like the only
183 town in cer [sic], in Hor [sic], Horry County, the only place that's light blue means the least amount of
184 opiates and heroine traffic, and where's the chief when I want to praise him? Anyway chief, thank you.
185 Policeman back there; new fella, I met you. Thank y'all for doing a great job. This is important. We got a
186 great town. We got a great fire department. They save lifes [sic.] We got a public works man that picks
187 up our garbage every week, and we don't have to worry about it. We don't have to drive to the dump.
188 We got a building department that takes care of us and makes sure that we build our houses right and
189 we don't build shoddy, sloppy, dilapidated type buildings. We've got a lot to be thankful for in Surfside.
190 So, Merry Christmas to all of you. God bless you all, and have a Happy New Year."

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192 Mayor Childs thanked the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee members who have really
193 gone above and beyond [on the Christmas project]. We all appreciate it. Hang in there, and don't let
194 anything discourage you. The lot at 3rd Avenue & Willow has archeological dig holes that need to be filled
195 in before it can be opened to the public. I've been told the holes should be filled soon. Staff was asked to
196 get this done, because the land does have to be used, and I hope it's done in the next few weeks.
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198 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Johnson
199 second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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201 Prepared and submitted by:

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205 _____
206 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

207 Approved: December 11, 2018
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Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

Ron Ott, Town Council

Debbie Scoles, Town Council

Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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

APPROVED