



**SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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; Fire Chief Otte, and Police Chief Hofmann.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A. Invocation: Councilmember Johnson 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. March 26, 2019. Mr. Stevens moved to adopt the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Agenda Items Only.

Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North; Ms. Beth Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South; Ms. Terri Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive; Ms. Kathy Goddard, 15th Avenue South, and Mr. Al Lauer, Harbor Lights Drive, and Ms. Carrie Johnson, Harbor Lights Drive, each spoke against adoption of Ordinance #19-0892, because of the proposed meeting time or the change to public comments.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. Administrator's Report. Administrator Pieper said

- Contact was made with area municipalities regarding the hospitality tax and accommodations tax situation with Horry County
- The budget is being completed for the workshop scheduled Thursday, April 11, in council chambers beginning at 9:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.
- Final details are being decided by the pier design team; contact continues with the all the permitting agencies
- Highway 17 improvement project and 3rd Avenue South Promenade projects are underway
- Floral Clubhouse repairs are being completed
- Parking decals are being issued by town hall staff

7. BUSINESS.

A. First Reading Ordinance #19-0892 Chapter 2 Administration, Councilmember Dietrich. Mr. Dietrich moved to adopt first reading of Ordinance #19-0892 as presented. Mr. Stevens second. Mr. Dietrich presented the decision paper and ordinance, copies of which are on file. After lengthy discussion, including that the invocation should not be omitted; the proposed change to the public comments sections, and the meeting time, Mr. Johnson moved to amend the motion to defer the ordinance to a workshop. Ms. Scoles second. All voted in favor. **AMENDED MOTION CARRIED TO DEFER TO WORKSHOP.**

B. Bid Award Fire Pumper Truck, Chief Otte. Mr. Stevens moved to award the bid to Ferrara in the amount \$621,400. Ms. Scoles second. Chief Otte presented the decision paper, a copy of which is on file. Chief Otte said Town Council would be asked to declare the 1994 truck surplus and allow it to be sold when the new truck was received. After discussion during which it was noted that the ISO1 rating saves residential customers between 8% and 10% and commercial customers 15% and 17%, all voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

56 **C. Business Committee Appointment (1 vacancy): Ms. Eva Rigney.** Mr. Stevens moved to
57 appoint Ms. Rigney to the business committee. Mr. Ott second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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59 **8. TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION.** There was no discussion.
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61 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS. General Comments.**
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63 Ms. Ann Wescott, Cedar Drive North, reminded everyone that the town's citizens were "stockholders"
64 and they had a right to express opinions.
65

66 Ms. Judy Kidd, 11th Avenue North, appreciated council's consideration of the ordinance. She asked
67 council to reconsider its action to fire the P&Z committee. None of them deserved to be so disrespected.
68 They worked hard to get certifications; to represent us, and to get the CRS rating.
69

70 Ms. Charlene Henderson, Cherry Drive North, regarding the ordinance that would be a hardship for
71 some people. I get that hearing criticism is hard. Politicians need to have thick skin. If we can't comment
72 how will you get feedback?
73

74 Ms. Beth Kohlmann, Ocean Boulevard South, said council never voted on the motion to have first
75 reading of the ordinance. Ms. Crosby explained that the approved amendment to hold a workshop negated
76 the motion to adopt first reading.
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78 **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS.**
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80 Mr. Ott thanked the people for their comments. Thanks to councilmembers for their honesty. We
81 shouldn't be afraid of each other or our friends and neighbors who are in this room. It's okay if they want to
82 say something about me, but don't say anything about my family. What council does is business; not
83 personal. We are doing what needs to be done for the town. We need to be sure communication stays open.
84 I read the ordinance and I do not believe that is Mr. Dietrich. I didn't see that coming from him. Thank you
85 for coming out and stay true to your town. As deceased councilmember Magliette used to say, "This is a
86 gem of a town to live in."
87

88 Ms. Scoles thanked everybody for coming. I agree people and councilmembers need to be able to
89 express their thoughts, but it should be done respectfully. Anger and emotion keep things from being
90 resolved. That is all I am asking for; be respectful of each other. I will make decisions that you do not agree
91 with, but I'm doing it for the right reason in my heart: it's right for the town; it works for the town, and we
92 can always agree to disagree, but still be respectful. I hope you have a good evening.
93

94 Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for coming. God bless you. We'll see you next time.
95

96 Mr. Pellegrino said thanks for coming. I appreciate your comments. I listen to all of them and
97 consider them. I don't always agree, but that is just the way it is. I don't take sides, even though I've been
98 accused of doing so many times, especially when campaigning. Every vote I make is first based on my value
99 set that is based on the Bible. Sometimes I fail on that, but that is what I strive to do. And second, what is
100 best for Surfside Beach. Many times I've voted in favor of motions because it was right for Surfside Beach,
101 even though my value set was telling me to vote against. Sometimes you agree, and sometimes not. That is
102 what is great about having an elected council; if you don't like our decisions, you can always vote for
103 someone else. Thank you for participating and have a great night.
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105 Mr. Stevens thanked everybody for coming. I have no problem with people speaking their mind. If
106 you disagree with something we do, you are basing that on facts and that is fine. If you state opinions on
107 something that is not true, then you are bordering on defamation and liable. Be respectful. The business
108 community pays 85 percent of our property taxes; \$1.5 to \$2 million in license fees, and 75 percent of our
109 sanitation. We have to make sure our laws are not socialistic; they need to be fair to the business people. I

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110 believe in capitalism, free enterprise, and successful businesses. Shop at our businesses, because they pay
111 our bills. Without them we wouldn't last more than 3.5 months.
112

113 Mr. Dietrich thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked Mr. Shore, Ms. Brown, and Ms. King, and
114 other members of the Senior Citizens Committee for working on the landscaping at the Senior Center. They
115 did a great job. I am the one who brought to town's attention about the Chapter 2 ordinance. About nine
116 months ago I did some research after reviewing town records and comparing our process to other towns.
117 We have to be able to control our business, but we don't have the codes like other towns have. That is all
118 we're trying to do. We are not trying to quiet or burden the public. We are trying to take care of the town,
119 which is why this was brought forward. I believe I sit here to run the business; that is why I was elected.
120 Please let me do it; let council do it. God bless you. Good night.
121

122 Mayor Childs said we're having a workshop on the ordinance that Mr. Dietrich brought. I doubt very
123 seriously if anyone in the audience would sit on the dais and listen to some of the comments, and some of
124 the social media negative comments. It's proven; we have it. People lied about it. Addressing an audience
125 member, Mayor Childs said he did not appreciate their laughing; this is one of the reasons this ordinance
126 was brought forward. Council did not laugh when public comments were made. If this was handled like a
127 business meeting, none of this would have ever come up. Nobody minds hearing what you have to say. But
128 some of the things said are just absolutely [false.] Nobody has their hands in a pocket. Prove one time that
129 anybody on this council has got their hand in somebody's pocket. There is no proof. If things like that
130 weren't said, then this ordinance would not have come forward. We have emails that prove false comments
131 were made. I suggest that the public consider what the councilmembers have to put up with and how they
132 would act if the comments were written about them. Everybody wants us to be respectful. I agree. But, I
133 also think the shoe is on the other foot. We have a time for people to speak about municipal services and
134 operations. They are already allowed and are being added to another part of the agenda.
135

136 **11. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Ott second. All
137 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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139 Prepared and submitted by:

140 Approved: April 23, 2019

141 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

142 Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

143 David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

144 Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

145 Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

146 Ron Ott, Town Council

147 Debbie Scoles, Town Council

148 Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

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