

THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Present from Town Council: David Bennett, *Mayor* Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro Tem*; Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, Kim Likins, John McCann, Lee Edwards, *Council Members*

Present from Town Staff: Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Jill Foster, *Deputy Director of Community Development*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities/Chief Engineer*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Darrin Shoemaker, *Traffic & Transportation Engineer*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief – Support Services*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; John Troyer, *Deputy Finance Director*; Jennifer Ray, *Urban Designer*; Melissa Cope, *Systems Analyst*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

Present from Media: Zach Murdock, *Island Packet*

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2) PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

3) INVOCATION

4) FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and distributed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

5) Proclamations and Commendations

Native Islander Gullah Celebration Month

Mr. Charles Young and Mr. Curtis Barnwell were present to accept the proclamation.

6) Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting, January 5, 2016

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. McCann seconded. Mayor Bennett noted that on page 2, the end of the last sentence needed to read “creates two of something from one dwelling unit.” Mr. Harkins moved to amend the minutes with the correction. Mr. McCann seconded. The amended minutes of the January 5, 2016 regular Town Council meeting were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

7) Report of the Town Manager

a. CAFR and Audit Presentation for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015– Don Mobley, Scott & Company

Mr. Riley invited Susan Simmons to approach the dais. Ms. Simmons noted that with two key positions vacant, her entire staff worked diligently to complete the audit. She thanked the members of her staff for their hard work and efforts. She introduced Mr. Mobley of Scott & Company. Mr. Mobley reviewed key points of the audit noting that Hilton Head Island conducts the audit in the correct manner and he appreciated the cooperation and labors in completing the audit.

a. Semi-Annual Update of the Board of Zoning Appeals – Glenn Stanford, Chairman

Mr. Stanford reviewed the activities of the board for the previous six months.

b. Semi-Annual Update of the Design Review Board – Jake Gartner, Chairman

Mr. Gartner reviewed the activities of the board for the previous six months.

Mayor Bennett thanked Mr. Stanford and Mr. Gartner for their service.

c. Quarterly Update on USCB

Mr. Riley briefly reviewed the updates contained in the packet provided by USCB and Town staff.

d. Town Manager’s Items of Interest

Mr. Riley reported on the items of interest listed below.

(1) Town News

(2) Noteworthy Events

8) Reports from Members of Council

a. General Reports from Council

Mr. McCann requested that the Mayor continue to update Council on items he is working on with other Mayors and County Council. Mayor Bennett stated he would be happy to do so.

b. Report of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee – Bill Harkins, Chairman

Mr. Harkins stated the Legislative Liaison of the Municipal Association of South Carolina will be the featured speaker at the upcoming Committee meeting.

c. Report of the Community Services Committee – Kim Likins, Chairman

Mrs. Likins noted her enthusiasm for New Business Item 11.c. and, if approved, there would be a recommendation that Council form a citizens committee to look at the venue issues and assured Council that the Committee is ready to move forward with that as soon as possible.

d. Report of the Public Planning Committee – Tom Lennox, Chairman

Mr. Lennox stated that Thursday, February 4 at 3:00 p.m. is the regular meeting of the Committee. He added that on Thursday, February 11 at 4:00 p.m. there will be a Special Meeting of the Committee which will consist of a presentation from Steven Ames regarding the Vision and Master Plan process going forward.

e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee – Lee Edwards, Chairman

Mr. Edwards reported the Committee would be meeting on Monday, January 25 at 10:00 a.m. to review the proposed fishing ban on the beach.

f. Report of the Public Safety Committee - Marc Grant, Chairman

Mr. Grant said the Committee would be holding a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 20 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Xanadu and South Forest Beach area.

g. Report of the Finance and Administrative Committee - John McCann, Chairman

No report.

h. Report of the Circle to Circle Committee - Tom Lennox, Town Council Liaison

Mr. Lennox noted that Wednesday, January 27 at 8:30 a.m. the Committee will meet and be introduced to the urban planning consultant.

9) Appearance by Citizens

Karl Engelman addressed Council regarding the USCB project.

Larry Myers addressed Council regarding governance.

Mayor Bennett called for a brief recess at 4:34 p.m. Council left the dais. Mayor Bennett reconvened the meeting at 4:51 p.m. Mr. McCann moved for Council to allow Mr. Hoagland to speak with the understanding that he follow the Town ordinance and that he not refer to anybody on Council by name, but address the Council as a whole. Mr. Harkins seconded. Mr. Edwards stated that any citizen needs to have the right to speak. Mayor Bennett stated he felt taxpayers have an expectation that an orderly meeting will be conducted, business will be done as efficiently and effectively as possible and for someone to repeat the same things over and over works against that. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-1. (Mayor Bennett was opposed.)

Skip Hoagland addressed Council regarding free speech and the Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce contract.

10) Unfinished Business

a. Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2016-02

Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2016-02 to repeal Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina and to reenact a new Chapter 1 of Title 17, adoption by reference of Beaufort County Ordinance Chapter 14, Article II Animal Control; and providing for severability and an effective date.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. McCann seconded. Mare Deckard spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

b. Consideration of potential Capital Project Sales Tax Commission list.

Mr. Riley stated that following the Finance and Administrative Committee's meeting on January 12 a memo was prepared with recommendations for a Capital Project Sales Tax list. He referenced a brief summary of the recommendations, including a suggested add-back of the gateway improvements as a joint County-Town initiative. He distributed the summary of the Gateway improvements; summary of acquisition and paving of dirt roads in the Sewer Master Plan area; a write-up done by Mayor Bennett regarding the Arts, Entertainment & Cultural Campus; and materials provided by Mitchelville. He invited Scott Liggett to conduct an overview of the gateway improvements. Mr. Liggett reviewed the proposed projects with Council and answered questions regarding such.

Karl Engelman suggested extending the TIF to cover the costs for the projects.

Larry Myers supported extending the TIF and taking one project at a time.

Curtis Barnwell expressed concern for safety of families living in the Squire Pope Road area earmarked in the gateway improvements.

Ed Barry expressed concern about traffic congestion after the improvements.

Mr. Riley explained the deadline for submittals is February 1 and Council would need to approve their recommendations at the present meeting.

After lengthy discussion, Mrs. Likins moved to submit the following list to the Beaufort County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission for consideration:

- Initial Design of a Replacement Bridge to the Mainland/Gateway Improvements - \$18 million
- Arts, Entertainment & Cultural Campus - \$30 million
- Dirt Roads - \$7 million
- Mitchelville - \$210,000

Mr. McCann seconded.

Mr. Paul Krunkleton spoke in support of the dirt roads but expressed concern about earmarking funds for the Arts, Entertainment & Cultural Campus due to a question of sustainability.

Mr. Walt Graver spoke in support of the Arts, Entertainment & Cultural Campus adding that the study done by Community Vision addressed sustainability of such a campus.

Shirley Peterson spoke in support of the pavilion at Mitchelville noting they are working on the issue of sustainability at this time.

The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

11) New Business

a. Consideration of a Recommendation to Accept the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$471,306 for the purchase of twelve (12) cardiac monitors.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

b. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Finance & Administrative Committee for approval of the Public Communication Firm Work Request Process.

Mr. McCann reviewed the process. After discussion regarding crisis management, Mr. McCann moved to approve. Mr. Harkins seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

c. Consideration of Recommendations from the Arts & Cultural Strategic Planning Committee.

Mayor Bennett invited Jane Joseph to the podium. Mrs. Joseph referenced a power point presentation highlighting specific information gathered by the Committee. She noted they utilized previous studies, documents and heard from arts organizations including individual artists from the community. She detailed their findings and answered questions from Council.

After lengthy discussion and review of the recommendations, Mr. Edwards moved to adopt the recommendations of the Arts & Cultural Strategic Planning Committee and to task the Community Services Committee with developing recommendations of a venue committee scope, purpose and membership. Mrs. Likins seconded.

Mrs. Likins wanted to clarify that Item #2 of the recommendations regarding supporting and funding of the recommended Hilton Head Island Culture and Arts Network (HHICAN) be included in the motion for the Community Services Committee to begin working the with Arts & Cultural Strategic Planning Committee in moving forward. Mr. Edwards confirmed it was part of his intent with the motion.

Larry Myers supported the concept but noted the Town cannot afford to financially support the arts completely.

Lisa Snider, a member of the Arts & Cultural Strategic Planning Committee spoke in support of the recommendations.

Skip Hoagland suggested using the funds earmarked for the Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce to support the arts.

Hannah Horne of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce offered to answer any questions regarding the Chamber's support of the arts, noting arts events have an economic impact on all businesses on Hilton Head Island.

Bob Lee, a member of the Arts & Cultural Strategic Planning Committee supported the recommendations and stated arts and culture is an economic driver in the community.

The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

12) Executive Session

Mr. Riley stated he needed an executive for land acquisition; discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale, lease or purchase of property: 1) related to potential acquisition of property in the Coligny Area; 2) related to potential acquisition of property in the Sea Pines Circle Area; 3) related to potential acquisition of property in the Palmetto Bay Road Area; and for legal matters; specifically, discussion of pending litigation concerning permitting procedures.

At 7:16 p.m. Mr. Harkins moved to go into executive session for reasons as stated by the Town Manager. Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

13) Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in executive session.

Mayor Bennett called the meeting back to order at 8:05 p.m. and stated there was no action taken during executive session and no business to take up as a result of executive session.

14) Adjournment

Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn. Mr. McCann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 02/16/2016

David Bennett, Mayor