

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 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: Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; 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*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; John Troyer, *Deputy Finance Director*; Melissa Cope, *Systems Analyst*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*; Steve Riley, *Town Manager* arrived late and participated in Executive Session.

Present from Media: Don McCloud, *Island Packet*

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:00 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

None

6) Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting, January 19, 2016

The minutes of the January 19, 2016 regular Town Council meeting were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

b. Town Council Workshop, February 8, 2016

The minutes of the February 8, 2016 Town Council Workshop were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

7) Report of the Town Manager

a. Semi-Annual Update of the Parks and Recreation Commission – Heather Rath, Chairman

Chairman Rath updated Town Council regarding the status of various areas that fall under the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as the previous six months of Committee activity.

b. Semi-Annual Land Acquisition Update

Mr. DeLoach stated the update was in the packet and if Council had any questions, staff would be available.

c. Town Manager's Items of Interest

Mr. DeLoach reported on the items of interest below.

- (1) Town News
- (2) Noteworthy Events

8) Reports from Members of Council

a. General Reports from Council

Mr. McCann congratulated Mr. Lennox regarding the coordination of the Visioning Process meetings. He stated all benefited from his hard work and thanked Mr. Lennox.

Mr. McCann asked if the Town had a policy or ordinance on annexation. Mr. DeLoach replied that the process of annexation is set forth in State Law. Mr. McCann stated the subject came up at the recent MASC meeting.

Mr. McCann reported that the Island Recreation Association conducted a presentation today at the Finance and Administrative Committee meeting and he gave the information to the Mayor.

Mr. McCann suggested the Appearance by Citizens agenda item be moved to take place after New Business. Mr. DeLoach stated the order of the agenda is set forth in the Town Municipal Code. He said if Council would like to make a permanent change, they may wish to consider a proposed ordinance making the change. After Council discussion, Mr. McCann moved to move Appearance by Citizens to after New Business as a future permanent ordinance. Mr. Harkins seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Grant informed Council he attended a meeting on Saturday in reference to a community action group working on non-violence on the Island. He stated there were speakers at the 1st African Baptist Church informing attendees what they can do to encourage their children to make wiser decisions. There will be another meeting held on March 12 at the Boys and Girls Club from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with various business leaders speaking. He stated they would like a variety of children from ages 13-25 in attendance to be made aware of the opportunities available to them once they graduate from high school.

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

Mr. Harkins stated the Committee met with Senator Davis at their recent meeting. Senator Davis shared his views and actions he is promoting regarding the SCDOT. Mr. Harkins added that they discussed the Jasper Port and the potential economic impact it will have in the area and on Hilton Head Island.

Mr. Harkins stated he had the opportunity to represent Mayor Bennett at a business luncheon in Savannah last week and Mayor DeLoach expressed his interest in opening up a discussion with the Mayor and others looking at the potential connectivity between Hilton Head Island and Savannah.

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

Mrs. Likins stated the Committee met on February 8 and completed a detailed review of the Arts & Cultural Strategic Planning Committee final report focusing on the three recommendations from the Committee within the report. She reviewed the recommendations and noted ways they are working on following through. Mrs. Likins noted that New Business Item 11.a is a recommendation of the Committee. She explained the litmus test for what they are presenting was basically if this Venue Committee answers all of the questions, will they have all the information needed to make a recommendation. Mrs. Likins stated that as a result quite a bit of information was placed in the resolution so the Committee will be able to come to the answers for all of the objectives. She added she will be asking to amend one of the goals

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

Mr. Lennox stated that during the past week there was a series of 14 meetings over two and one half days and three of the meetings were special meetings of the Public Planning Committee. He said Mr. Steven Ames of Ames Group Consulting was introduced to approximately 100 people to gather input regarding the visioning process, to gather feedback on what has been done so far and how that may be applicable in what is chosen to do going forward. Mr. Lennox stated he expects to receive the product of Mr. Ames' work early next week and it will be discussed at the upcoming Public Planning Committee meeting to be held on March 3. Mr. Lennox thanked Jill Foster, Lynn Buchman and Tom Fultz for their coordination of the meetings.

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

Mr. Edwards reported the Committee met on January 25 to discuss the proposed fishing ban on the beach. He said they received input from George Burgess, Director of the Florida Program for Shark Research, Peter Boyles, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, representatives of various fishing clubs and the Waddell Mariculture Center and all stated they were not aware of any correlation between shark attacks and fishing on the beach. He explained that as a result the Committee decided not to make a recommendation to the full Town Council to take up the fishing ban. He added that they also had a detailed report from Scott Liggett pertaining to the beach renourishment project. Mr. Edwards stated Mr. Liggett gave a full history of the program and current activities which was very informative and enlightening. He said the Town of Hilton Head Island beach renourishment program is not only unique in South Carolina, but it is unique in the entire country, as well as being the best managed and funded program.

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

Mr. Grant stated the Committee held two meetings since the last Town Council meeting. He said they held a special meeting on January 20 to provide answers to many questions asked in reference to crime stats in the North Forest Beach area. He said that during the meeting, Town staff provided answers to many questions and concerns dealing with condos, lockouts and the State Fire Marshal and at the end of the meeting, it was decided a task force should be created and invite the State Fire Marshal to come to address specific issues that deal with lockouts. He said there was a suggestion to create the task force first and then invite the State Fire Marshal to a meeting so he wouldn't have to come to Hilton Head Island twice. He added the Committee also met on February 1 and Chief Tadlock presented his annual report and reviewed the details and discussion ensued regarding increases in calls and the causes. Mr. Grant said open burning was also addressed regarding enforcement, data and adjustments in scheduling. Chief Tadlock also updated the Committee on recent awards and activities of the department. Captain Woodward of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office was also present and he reviewed the Fourth Quarter Crime Stats with the Committee in detail. Mr. Grant stated that Captain Woodward also addressed procedures that should be taken regarding suspicious activity around schools.

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

Mr. McCann reported the Committee met earlier in the day and the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee would be coming forward to Town Council with a recommendation regarding handling out-of-cycle Accommodations Tax Grant requests. He added they also discussed the first quarter DMO metrics which will be available after the first quarter which is March 31 and be presented to the Finance and Administrative Committee at the April meeting.

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

Mr. Lennox said the Committee met February 10 and the direction of the Circle to Circle is starting to take much more significance than in the past. He said the Urban Planning Consultant was introduced and the Committee discussed the process the Design Workshop, Inc. will use to create a plan that achieves consensus from the Committee. He stated they also discussed the current vision and asked the question if it reflects what people are currently thinking and discussion of any inconsistencies in previous planning documents and community meetings. They also discussed and documented the critical success factors, metrics, and barriers in creating a successful vision plan as well as barriers to acceptance to the planning ideas throughout the community. Finally, there was a discussion to confirm the stakeholder interviews with Design Workshop, Inc. He said the next meeting will be held on February 24 at 8:30 in Council Chambers.

9) Appearance by Citizens

Skip Hoagland addressed Council regarding free speech, the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, lawsuits, legal services and procurement.

Dr. Karl Engelman previously registered, was called on and was not present to speak.

10) Unfinished Business

None.

11) New Business

a. Consideration of a Resolution – Venue Committee

Consideration of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, creating the Venue Committee as a sub-committee of the Community Services Committee; and providing a goal and objectives for the committee.

Mrs. Likins moved to approve with change in definition of the first goal on page 2 of the resolution and page 1 of the Scope of Work. She noted changes as follows (additions are underlined):

- Recommend, if substantiated, the Structure, Cost and Funding of Venue(s), and operational sustainability, which satisfy the needs of the Community and the Arts, Cultural and History organizations, maximizing the return on investment for the Town and its citizens and fulfill the Capital Sales Tax requirements, if so available. This should include specific recommendations regarding the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina's venue requirements.

Mr. McCann seconded.

Mr. McCann suggested membership of the committee should include a representative of the Native Islander and the Hispanic Community. Mrs. Likins explained they had done that in the past and no one from those communities applied and they didn't want to have empty seats on the Committee when created. Mr. Lennox noted he would support the resolution but stated he felt it was too specific and may be a hindrance to the Committee in moving forward.

Mary Amonitti addressed Council regarding the requirements for membership on the Committee.

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

b. Consideration of a Recommendation – USCB-John Salazar/Clemson Analysis

Consideration of a Recommendation of a USCB-John Salazar/Clemson Analysis estimating the effect of a Hilton Head Island performing arts center on property values with an emphasis on residential property.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. McCann seconded. Dr. Salazar and Dr. Carey conducted an in-depth presentation of the study and how the model works and answered questions from Council. After lengthy discussion as to whether the study would supply the information needed, Mayor Bennett said he would like to refer the item back to the Finance and Administrative Committee to come up with proposals from firms to address the following:

1. The value in the community today from Arts, Cultural and Historical organizations operating just as they are and understand what that answer is.

Mayor Bennett stated a second question that would be best answered at a point and time in the future when the Venue Committee and whatever additional assistance they are going to need has results is to understand more of what the Town would propose to build, if they move forward and how that product would cause the Arts, Cultural and Heritage organizations in our community to respond with enhanced offerings. And then once both components are understood, use that to assess the increase or potential increase in property values across the Island. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to refer the item back to the Finance and Administrative Committee.

12) Executive Session

Mr. DeLoach stated the Town Manager needed an executive for discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale, lease or purchase of property related to granting an easement on a parcel near the corner of Dillon Road and Summit Drive; related to a parcel on Squire Pope Road; related to a parcel in the Stoney area; and related to a parcel in the Coligny Area; and for receipt of legal advice related to pending litigation concerning permitting procedures and related to Sea Pines beach issues.

At 6:12 p.m. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to go into executive session for reasons as stated by the Assistant Town Manager.

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

Mayor Bennett called the meeting back to order at 7:26 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

Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 03/01/2016

David Bennett, Mayor