

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND  
THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL**

Hilton Head Island High School Visual and Performing Arts Center

**Date:** Monday, October 27, 2010

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Present from Town Council:** Thomas D. Peeples, *Mayor*; Ken Heitzke, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; George Williams, John Safay, Bill Harkins, Drew Laughlin, Bill Ferguson, *Councilmen*.

**Present from Town Staff:** Stephen G. Riley, *Town Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities*; Jill Foster, *Deputy Director of Community Development*; Teri Lewis, *LMO Official*; Sally Krebs, *Natural Resources Administrator*; Anne Cyran, *Senior Planner*; Susan Blake, *Executive Assistant*

**Present from Media:** Tom Barton, *Island Packet*

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Peeples at 6:02 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

- 3. FOIA Compliance** – Public information of this joint session of Councils has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and Beaufort County and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

**4. Opening Remarks** – Mayor Peeples and Chairman Newton

**a. Presiding Official**

Mayor Peeples welcomed everyone and explained the purpose for this joint meeting. They would be hearing the draft 2010 Final Report of the Hilton Head Island Airport Master Plan Update from the consultants. The Mayor recognized and expressed his appreciation for the great relationship between the County Council and Town Council in working together to find solutions for the airport.

**b. Procedures**

Beaufort County Council Chairman Weston Newton thanked everyone for being here, and stated he welcomed their participation and public comments. He thanked the Town Council and County Council members for their cooperative efforts. He explained the manner of procedure for Council comments, per Chapter 2, Section 2; time limits and decorum.

The Mayor invited Talbert and Bright to make their presentation.

**5. Master Plan Presentation** – Talbert & Bright

Mr. Roy Johnson introduced himself and the other consultants present: Mr. Carl Ellington, Ms. Judy Elder and Mr. Pat Turney. Mr. Johnson then provided a recap of their Development Alternatives Analyses for various runway lengths and configurations as well as how they came to their recommendation. It was their recommendation to extend the

runway to 5,400 ft. in order to ensure the future of both commercial and private air service on the Island in a two phase process.

## 6. **New Business**

Chairman Newton noted that there were three resolutions to be discussed this evening; a joint resolution of the Town and the County; a Town resolution and a County resolution. But first there were a couple of “housekeeping” items he wished to address. In the joint resolution, third WHEREAS clause, in the last sentence the phrase “class of private planes” should be changed to read “family of aircraft.” And in the fifth WHEREAS clause, fourth line, revise the phrase “...requiring no land acquisition or relocation of roads...” to read “...requiring *minimal* land acquisition *and no* relocation of roads...” The Chairman also proposed to incorporate these changes into the Town Council Resolution (Item 6.b.) and the Beaufort County Council Resolution (Item 6.c.).

**a. Resolution – A joint resolution of the Beaufort County Council and the Hilton Head Island Town Council to adopt the 2010 Hilton Head Island Airport Master Plan and direct staff to begin to implement the plan.**

Paul Sommerville moved to amend the joint resolution to incorporate the proposed changes. Bill Harkins seconded.

**b. Resolution – A resolution of the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina directing the Town Manager to begin the process of amending LMO Section 16-4-1307 to provide for a runway length of 5,000 linear feet.**

Drew Laughlin moved to amend the Town Council resolution to incorporate the proposed changes. George Williams seconded.

**c. Resolution – A resolution of Beaufort County Council to provide for a runway length of 5,000 linear feet at the Hilton Head Island Airport.**

Stu Rodman moved to amend the County Council resolution to incorporate the proposed changes. Jerry Stewart seconded.

Chairman Newton turned the meeting over to Mayor Peoples at this point. The Mayor announced that before the council members discussed the resolutions, he would open the floor to public comments. He reminded the audience that their comments should pertain only to the Master Plan Update and the resolutions that are before them tonight.

## 7. **Public Comments**

There were approximately thirty two people who chose to address the councils to express their thoughts on the proposed alternatives. At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Mayor called for a brief recess at 8:10 p.m.

## 8. **Discussion**

At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Peoples called the meeting back to order and turned the gavel over to Chairman Newton. The Chairman asked for comments from Council Members. There was a lengthy discussion by everyone, stating their opinions about the proposals. Some of the County Council members presented brief slide shows outlining their ideas and suggestions.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he found the fifth WHEREAS clause in the joint resolution to be

confusing and objected to the reference to a 5,400 foot runway. Chairman Newton replied that the fifth clause was not intended to state that they were voting to extend the runway to 5,400 feet, but rather only that Alternative 2 provided for a runway of 5,400 ft. Mr. Ferguson was still not in favor of the clause and made a motion to strike the fifth whereas from the joint resolution. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Heitzke asked for some further clarification language in the Joint Resolution to be added to the final WHEREAS clause and to be repeated in the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED paragraph. He wished to add “for Phase One/Alternative Two” to the end of the sentence in the first staff actions following adoption: “1) Process the necessary amendments.....that may be in conflict with this Plan *for Phase One/Alternative 2;*” Chairman Newton asked the maker of the original motion, Council member Paul Sommerville, if he agreed to the proposed amendments. Mr. Sommerville said that he did not agree. Subsequently, Mr. Laughlin made a formal motion to amend the joint resolution language as per Mr. Heitzke’s proposals. Mr. Ferguson seconded. The motion was approved by Town Council by a vote of 7-0. However, County Council rejected the amendment by a vote of 6-4. Having failed to gain approval by both councils, this amendment to the joint resolution failed.

After some additional comments by the council members, Chairman Newton called for the voting.

**6.a. Joint Resolution:** Approved by Town Council by a vote of 4-3, with members Mr. Heitzke, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. Safay opposed. Approved by County Council on a vote of 6-4 with members Mr. Baer, Mr. Dawson, Ms. Von Harten, and Mr. Glaze opposed. Having been approved by both bodies, the joint resolution passed.

**6.b. Town Council Resolution:** Approved by a vote of 5-2. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Safay were opposed.

**6.c. County Council Resolution:** Approved by a vote of 6-4. Mr. Baer, Mr. Dawson, Ms. Von Harten, and Mr. Glaze were opposed.

At this time, Chairman Newton asked that the Beaufort County Council members consider a Resolution to formalize their commitment to Town Council that they will not proceed with any land acquisitions or future master planning without formal consultation with the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island. Ms. Laura Von Harten made the motion to adopt said resolution. Mr. Brian Flewelling seconded the motion. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

## 9. Adjournment

On a motion by George Williams and seconded by Drew Laughlin, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:28 p.m.

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Susan Blake, Secretary

Approved:

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Thomas D. Peeples, Mayor