

THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Time: 4:00 P.M.

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

Present from Town Staff: Stephen G. Riley, *Town Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Curtis Coltrane, *Assistant Town Manager*; Lavarn Lucas, *Fire Chief, Fire & Rescue*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities*; Nancy Gasen, *Director of Human Resources*; Teri Lewis, *LMO Official*; Julian Walls, *Facilities Manager*; Brad Tadlock, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Trudie Johnson, *Floodplain Administrator*; Paul Rasch, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

Present from Media: Laura Nahmias, *Island Packet*

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
- 3) **INVOCATION**
- 4) **FOIA COMPLIANCE** – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- 5) **PROCLAMATIONS AND COMMENDATIONS**
- 6) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. **Regular Town Council Meeting of February 2, 2010**

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.
- 7) **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**
 - a. **Town Manager’s Items of Interest**

The Town Manager reported on some items of interest.
 - b. **Semi annual update of the Commission –Al Vadnais, Chairman**

Mr. Vadnais provided Town Council with an update on the Planning Commission activities for the second half of 2009.
 - c. **Presentation by Heritage Classic Foundation**

Mr. Steve Wilmot, Tournament Director reviewed the new marketing campaign for the Verizon Heritage Classic. The tournaments new campaign slogan is “Get Your Plaid On.” Mr. Wilmot explained the campaign will include extensive multimedia advertisements that stress Hilton Head Island’s uniqueness and community involvement with the tournament. He then showed a television ad emphasizing the slogan to Town Council.

d. February 2010 Policy Agenda, Management Targets and CIP Updates

Steve Riley noted that the above items were included in the agenda package and stated he would be happy to answer any questions.

e. Discussion of Section 8-1-211; Subsection 9 – Prohibition of horses on the beach as it relates to the Gullah Celebration Marsh Tacky Races

Mr. Riley informed Council that on Saturday, February 13, there was a walk through with the owners/riders of the Marsh Tacky horses at Mitchelville Beach Park. It was determined with the shifting of sand on the beach; they would not be able to conduct the race as scheduled. He noted a request was made to move the event to Coligny Beach. He stated there are ordinances that prohibit horses on the beach noting Mitchelville is not defined as the beach for purposes of enforcing the Town's ordinances. Mr. Riley explained he was approaching Council to see if they wanted to discuss amending the ordinance to grant an exception for an annual Marsh Tacky race. He also explained another aspect that creates issues for this event is commercial activity is prohibited on the beach meaning any types of sales could not take place at the Coligny Beach location and noted other arrangements would have to be made by the organizers of the event. He clarified he was not suggesting the Town waive or change the commercial restrictions on the beach at this point in time. Mayor Peeples stated that Mr. Ferguson had a suggestion for another location for the races and asked him to explain it to Council. Mr. Ferguson said he had not had time to speak with representatives of the event but he felt if there were problems with the Mitchelville Beach Park area then there may be problems with the entire beach. He suggested the race be moved to Honey Horn. He said that in the past there were horse races at that location. He added the area was large enough for the races and had ample parking along with plenty of space to set up concessions and merchandise sales. Mayor Peeples then invited Michael Marks of the Coastal Discovery Museum to approach the dais and asked him if he thought it would work moving the event to Honey Horn. Mr. Marks stated he felt it could work noting they do have the space and they just finished the Marsh Tacky horse barn and that some of the horses will be at that location anyway. Mr. Marks stated they are going to have to work fast no matter what location is utilized. Mayor Peeples then asked if there was a representative of the Native Island Business Community Affairs Association present to discuss their views. Mr. Murray Christopher, Chairman of the Marsh Tacky event approached the dais. He stated the suggestion from Mr. Ferguson is certainly one for consideration but they have been advertising a horse race on the beach and would prefer keeping it there. He explained the Marsh Tacky race is one of the signature events of the celebration and all are expecting it on a beach. He requested on behalf of the Gullah Celebration Committee that Town Council consider allowing the race to stay on the beach. Mr. Laughlin moved to add an Item 11 b. Proposed Ordinance No. 2010-03 under New Business to the agenda concerning amending the prohibitions of horses on the beach as it relates to the Gullah Celebration Marsh Tacky Races. Mr. Heitzke seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

8) REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a. General Reports from Council

Mr. Harkins commented on the proposed 1% tax increase. He stated he wanted to share publicly that Council needs to discuss or debate the issue. Mayor Peeples stated at this point it is only a proposal in Columbia. If and when a law is passed the Council will certainly have to have the public debate.

Mr. Safay stated it was brought to his attention there was a report in the newspaper that someone had recommended the Town of Hilton Head Island become involved and join the Lowcountry Economic Network as part of an ongoing need to become more business oriented. He pointed out the Town is a member of the Lowcountry Economic Network and he is the representative from Town Council and is involved in programs they are putting together.

Mayor Peebles announced a reminder for everyone as to how important it is to fill out the Census Report when they receive it. He stated it is important all get counted as it affects the issues on Hilton Head Island concerning representation and dollars returning to us.

b. Report of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee – George Williams, Chairman

Mr. Williams informed Council that at the meeting held today, they had several items on the agenda. He stated the Building Code Council will be taking a vote at the end of this month as to whether or not to make it mandatory that all new construction of one and two unit family homes have sprinkler systems. He stated the sub-committee of the Building Code Council is recommending that the mandatory sprinkler system requirement be removed. Mr. Williams moved that Town Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Building Code Council supporting the sub-committee's recommendation to remove the mandatory sprinkler system requirement for one and two unit family homes. Mr. Safay seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0. Mr. Williams also stated the Intergovernmental Committee reviewed S.907, H.3468 and H.3710 which are all Emergency Medical Services bills relating to the releasing of information. He explained that Chief Lucas reviewed each bill and supplied his comments in detail. Mr. Williams moved that Town Council authorize a letter of support for Chief Lucas' comments concerning bills S.907, H.3468 and H.3710 regarding Emergency Medical Services noting there will be a meeting with Representative Chalk for his input prior to the letter being sent. Mr. Heitzke seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

c. Report of the Personnel Committee – Drew Laughlin, Chairman

Mr. Laughlin stated the Committee will schedule meetings in the near future to begin reviewing applications for Boards and Commissions for terms that will begin July 1. He encouraged all citizens of the Town of Hilton Head Island who feel they have experience or the ability to serve on a committee for the Town to submit their applications. Mr. Ferguson added it would be wise to suggest that those who have applied in the past make sure they check and see if their application is still active. Mr. Laughlin agreed and said that applications are considered active for three years and after that time citizens need to re-apply. It was noted the application form is also available on the Town's website.

d. Report of the Planning and Development Standards Committee – Bill Ferguson, Chairman

No report.

e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee – John Safay, Chairman

Mr. Safay reported the Committee is having a special meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to concentrate on the recycling program that is being developed for residential use. They will be evaluating the RFP which will be available to trash haulers. He stated the Committee is getting close to a recycling program that will benefit all residents of Hilton Head Island.

f. Report of the Public Safety Committee – Bill Harkins, Chairman

No report.

9) **APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS**

Mr. Charles Copley spoke to Town Council concerning trees at the airport.

10) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. **None.**

11) **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Consideration of Recommendations that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island approve the relocation of Fire Station 6 to a Town-owned tract southwest of the current site and that the Town negotiate with the Palmetto Dunes Property Owners Association and Greenwood Development Corporation to achieve a contract of sale of the current site of Fire Station 6.**

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

b. **First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2010-03 to amend Chapter 1 (Beaches) of Title 8, Beaches, Waterways and Recreational Areas,, Part A, General Beach Prohibitions, Section 8-1-211 (9), Unlawful Activities Enumerated; and providing for severability and an effective date.**

Mr. Laughlin moved to approve. Mr. Heitzke seconded. Fran White and Mary Amonetti spoke in support of the proposed ordinance. Mr. James Mitchell, President and CEO of the Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association approached the dais and requested approval for the race to be conducted on the beach. Mr. Laughlin asked if there is going to be a mechanism in place that the Town is always aware of when the event would take place. Mr. Riley explained the proposed ordinance deals with the permission of the March Tacky race to be held on the beach but the organization would still have to go through the special event permitting process with the Town which requires advance notice. Mayor Peebles stated he also feels it is a great event and it has exceeded everyone's expectations. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0. Mr. Riley stated the need for a special meeting next week for the second reading. He said he would have staff contact Council Members as to their availability.

12) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Riley said that he needed an executive session for contractual matters pertaining to land acquisition and a contractual matter pertaining to an intergovernmental agreement regarding damage assessment software.

At 5:10 p.m., Mr. Heitzke moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons stated by the Town Manager. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Peebles called the meeting back to order at 5:52 p.m. and asked if there was any business to take up as a result of executive session.

Mr. Heitzke moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute and deliver an agreement regarding the use of impact assessment software developed by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, by Beaufort County, South Carolina; the Town of Bluffton, South Carolina; the City

of Beaufort, South Carolina; and the Town of Port Royal, South Carolina. Mr. Williams

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

13) ADJOURNMENT

At 5:53 p.m., Mr. Heitzke moved to adjourn. Mr. Ferguson seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved:

Thomas D. Peoples, Mayor