

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Monday, June 17, 2013
Regular Meeting

Members Present: George Williams, *Chairman*, and Lee Edwards, *Council Member*

Members Absent: Marc Grant, *Council Member*

Others Present: Bill Harkins and Kim Likins, *Council Members*, and Joe Croley, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

Staff Present: Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Faidra Smith, *Administration Manager/Public Information Coordinator*; and Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

Media Present: Brian Heffernan, *The Island Packet*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Freedom of Information Act 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.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0.

4. Chairman's Report

None

5. Unfinished Business

a. Update of General Assembly issues.

Chairman Williams explained that he would like the Committee to review and discuss several bills that did not make it through the legislature this term, and to determine if more background information is needed in order to make decisions of support or opposition.

Greg DeLoach, Assistant Town Manager, noted that the General Assembly had adjourned on June 6, with a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to review the conference budget report and to finalize the budget this week. He reported they will meet again on Tuesday, June 25, to consider overrides on the Governor's vetoes for various line items in the budget.

Mr. DeLoach noted that letters were sent to all Senate members concerning the Local Government Fund, as well as a second letter to all Senators on the Solid Waste Flow Control Bill.

He reported that the local government funding levels are being held to the same as last year. Funds at the statutory level would amount to \$992,000, but instead the funding will be \$800,000, which is the same as received last year, and which amount was factored into the budget process for FY2014.

Although the Solid Waste Flow Control Bill passed the House, Mr. DeLoach reported on the status of the Bill in the Senate, where a last minute attempt to attach it to another Bill failed. With approximately \$350,000 spent on lobbying for this bill in 2013, Mr. DeLoach reported it would be alive in 2014 without having to be re-filed.

Mr. DeLoach noted that several letters to our Congressional Delegation had been sent concerning the Municipal Bond Tax Exemption contained in the Federal budget, with the Town's position being supported by them, but as no budget has yet been adopted, there is nothing further to report.

The texting bill remains in the House Judiciary Committee according to Mr. DeLoach. With the expected adoption of such a bill by the Town, he suggested sending a letter to encourage the passage of a statewide bill to avoid numerous local versions that are all different. Chairman Williams and Mr. DeLoach discussed reasons why the bill has not passed.

Mr. DeLoach noted Bill H.3986 did not see any activity during this session, but bears watching in the next year. As he explained, this Bill would eliminate a municipality's right to impose a business license and reserve to the county the right to impose a license tax on businesses within the county. A discussion following concerning the reasoning behind such a bill and the effect that passage would have on the Town's revenues. Mr. DeLoach reported that the Municipal Association expects more business license tax bills to come up in the next session.

The timeline for pre-filing bills in December was discussed, and the adoption of a legislative agenda by the Municipal Association that would occur in November.

Bill H.3604 introduced by Representative Patrick concerning businesses involved in manufacturing not being subject to a business license fee on gross income derived from interstate or international sales was briefly discussed, and Mr. DeLoach noted he would keep an eye on the bill. With Monday meetings of the Committee now in place, Mr. DeLoach suggested inviting Mr. Patrick and other members of the County Delegation to attend a future meeting. Chairman Williams agreed that when meetings of the Committee recommence in November invitations should be extended to Senator Davis and the other legislators to voice their concerns and positions for the coming session.

Mr. Harkins noted that Senator Davis has been working on the report card for communities that house Armed Forces, and he was successful in obtaining favorable comments on 5 of the 10 points. He suggested thanking Senator Davis for the progress made and encouraging him to continue his efforts next year, and the Committee agreed to recommend that such a letter be drafted and sent.

Mr. DeLoach indicated he would issue a final status report in a few weeks on all bills where positions have been taken.

6. New Business

None

Adjournment

At 10:17 a.m. Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn and Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0.

Approved:

George Williams, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn W. Buchman
Administrative Assistant