

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND** **Approved**  
**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date:** January 12, 2016 **Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Members Present:** John McCann, *Chairman*; Bill Harkins, Tom Lennox, *Council Members*  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Staff Present:** David Bennett, *Mayor*, Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; John Troyer, *Deputy Director of Finance*; Jill Foster, *Deputy Director of Community Development*; Cindaia Ervin, *Finance Assistant*  
**Others Present:** Kim Likins; *Council Member*, Eleanor O’Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track*, Ray Deal; *Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce* and other members of the community.  
**Media:** The Island Packet

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**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**2. 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.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

None

**4. Unfinished Business:**

None

**5. New Business:**

**a. Discussion of Town of Hilton Head Island Capital Project Sales Tax Recommendations to Beaufort County.**

Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects, opened the meeting with staff recommendations for Town projects for the Proposed Capital Projects Sales Tax for Beaufort County. The list included road improvements, funding for a projected Arts Center and pathway program. The Committee discussed their thoughts behind each proposed category and the proposed budget. David Bennett, Mayor, discussed his concern is that there is not a sizeable venue in the area for performance and heritage-related events and feels that this proposed venue will enhance the quality of life on Hilton Head. He proposed an Arts & Cultural campus with Lowcountry style with an iconic design which continues Hilton Head’s design reputation – he referenced iconic as being similar to the lighthouse in Sea Pines. The Committee’s consensus on the criteria for compiling a list of proposed projects are importance of having a tangible project, time-limited in terms of the funding cycle, countywide benefit, size that goes beyond a particular municipality, and sustainability. The Committee’s proposals to Council are that the proposed bridge replacement coming onto the

Island, possible construction of an Arts Campus, Mitchellville, and dirt roads should be included in the recommendation to Beaufort County.

**b. Discussion of Town’s Expectation from Apportionment of Capital Project Sales Tax Funds.**

John McCann, Chairman, wanted to discuss the Committee’s expectation of the funds to be received by the Town from the proposed capital project sales tax. The Committee, Ms. Likins and the Town Manager discussed the pros and cons of setting an expectation regarding the dollar or percentage of funds that should be apportioned to the Town. The discussion led more to having projects that impacted a wide range of citizens in the Town and the County and to the importance of having projects that are well-defined and would be supported by the voters in a referendum. Mr. Harkins, Committee Member, stated that it is a priority for the Committee’s proposed projects to be on the ballot. He stressed the importance of how good the projects are for the County and for the citizens, and emphasized it is important that the citizens feel good and support the Committee’s decision on the four projects. Mr. McCann asked Kim Likins, Council Member her thoughts. She shared that “we” as citizens, if we are going to propose a project sales tax, “we” as a community would want to benefit from them as well. Steve Riley, Town Manager, stated that voters are looking for worthy projects and that they can support and vote for ones on and off Island. He used the example of widening of Highway 170 and the strong voter turnout in favor of the impact it had on people traveling to and from the area. There was a discussion that the new public relations firm might be used in regards in this regard.

Mr. Harkins made a motion to not have a specific expectation of funds to be received from the capital project sales tax and Mr. Lennox seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

**6. Adjournment:**

Mr. Lennox made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Harkins seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

**Approved:** February 16, 2016

**Respectfully submitted:**

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**John McCann, Chairman**

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**Cindaia Ervin, Secretary**