

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

**Note correction to item 9(f), as
approved by Town Council
1.02.19.**

Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Present from Town Council: John J. McCann, *Mayor*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro Tempore*; Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, David Ames, Tamara Becker, *Council Members*

Present from Town Staff: Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Joshua Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Director of Community Development*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; John Troyer, *Finance Director*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Chris Yates, *Building Official*; Jennifer Ray, *Planning and Special Projects Manager*; Emily Sparks, *Project Lead*; Andrew Nicolls, *Systems Analyst*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

Present from Media: Katherine Kokal, *Island Packet*

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. FOIA Compliance - Public notification of this meeting was published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Executive Session

Mr. Riley stated that he needed an Executive Session for: (a) Contractual Matters; discussion of negotiations incidents related to proposed contractual arrangements with the Town Attorney; (b) Land Acquisition; discussion of negotiations incidents related to the proposed sale, lease, or purchase of property in the Beach City Road area; (c) Legal Advice; receipt of legal advice related to pending, threatened, or potential claim related to Sea Cabin Racquet Club II HPRV v. Town of Hilton Head Island.

At 4:06 p.m. Mr. Harkins moved to go into Executive Session for matters mentioned by the Town Manager, Mr. Grant seconded. The motion to go into Executive Session was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Town Council returned to the dais at 5:01 p.m. to begin the Regular portion of the meeting.

4. Pledge to the Flag

5. Invocation

Father Mark Brinkmann, Associate Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church delivered the invocation.

6. Proclamations & Commendations - None

7. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting, November 7, 2018.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2018 Town Council meeting. Mr. Lennox seconded, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

b. Town Council Meeting, December 4, 2018

Mr. Harkins moved to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2018 Town Council meeting. Mr. Lennox seconded with changes noting the vote count to Agenda Item 7 as 6-0, not 7-0. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0 as corrected.

8. Report of Town Manager

a. Government Finance Officers Association – Distinguished Budget Award

Mayor McCann presented John Troyer, the Town's Finance Director, the 2018 Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. Mr. Troyer made some brief remarks and recognized his staff.

b. Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Results

Mr. Riley reviewed with the members of Council the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Results, and invited Chris Yates, the Town's Building Official up to make some brief remarks. Mr. Yates addressed the members of Council noting the achievements by the Building Department.

c. FY2018 CAFR and Audit Presentation – Emily Sobczak, Greene Finney, LLP

Emily Sobczak of Greene Finney, LLP made a presentation to the members of Council regarding the FY2018 CAFR and Audit. Mr. Riley reminded Council that they have just received the final draft of the FY2018 CAFR and to take it with them to review and ask questions after they have had a chance to review.

d. Presentation of Rural Development Act Utility Tax Credit – Berl Davis, Jr. – Palmetto Electric

Mr. Berl Davis of Palmetto Electric Cooperative, presented the award for the Rural Development Act Utility Tax Credit the Town recently received from Palmetto Electric Cooperative. Mr. Davis made some brief statements of the credit and the Cooperative's relationship with the Town.

e. Items of Interest

- i. Town News**
- ii. Noteworthy Events**

Mr. Riley reviewed the Items of Interest, including Town News, upcoming Town meetings, and noteworthy events taking place throughout the Island over the coming weeks. He also noted that the next Town Council meeting taking place on January 2, 2019 would be held at the USCB Hilton Head Island campus. Mr. Riley made mention to the Mayor that per current Town Code, the regular portion of the meeting would not come to order until 5:00 p.m. If the members of Council wanted to amend the upcoming meeting's start time, a motion would need to be made.

Mr. Harkins moved to start the regular portion January 2, 2019 Town Council meeting at 4:00 p.m., moving the Executive Session to the end of the meeting after New Business. Mr. Lennox seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

9. Reports from Members of Council

a. General Reports from Council

Mayor McCann reported that Council had met the week prior for their annual workshop where they discussed several pressing items of importance. He said that the facilitator would be sending a report back to Town staff who would review and prepare the final set of priorities for Council to review in March.

b. Report of the Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee – Bill Harkins, Chairman

Mr. Harkins reported that his Committee would be reviewing the current dangers of U.S. 278 on the Island, and would be coming up with a plan to bring forward to Town Council to consider at a later date.

9. Reports from Members of Council (cont.)

c. Report of the Community Services Committee – Marc Grant, Chairman

Mr. Grant reported that the Committee had been meeting to review and interview applicants for the U.S. 278 Advisory Committee. He said the Committee would continue to review and interview applicants through early January with the hopes that a recommendation would be ready for Town Council by the second meeting in January.

d. Report of the Public Planning Committee – David Ames, Chairman

Mr. Ames reported that on November 29, 2018 the Committee held a special meeting with the Workforce Housing consultant where they discussed the results of the Housing Needs and Market Assessment. He said it was an informative discussion and looks forward to the consultant coming back in January. Mr. Ames asked the Mayor about having an open discussion during the January 2, 2019 meeting regarding Pope Avenue. The Mayor noted the request and said he would have that item added to the agenda.

e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee – Marc Grant, Chairman

Mr. Grant stated that he did not have a report.

f. Report of the Finance & Administrative Committee – ~~John McCann~~ Tom Lennox, Chairman

Mr. Lennox reported that the Committee met earlier in the day where there was a general discussion regarding FOIA and general discussion regarding the revised Stormwater utility PUD/POA drainage agreement. He said discussion regarding these items would continue at the Committee's next scheduled meeting.

Mayor McCann reported that he has assigned Mr. Ames as the Town's Liaison to the Beaufort County Airport Board and Ms. Becker as the Town's Liaison to the ATAX Committee.

10. Appearance by Citizens

Amber Kuehn: Addressed the members of Council about the lighting ordinance under the Town's code with regard to turtle protection. She noted that along with members of Town staff, she has proposed changes that would help strengthen the enforcement of the outdated ordinance. Mayor McCann asked Mr. Ames if he would take this matter up under the Public Planning Committee.

Rosa Ti: Addressed the members of Council regarding the different types of trash and recycle cans that the Town could consider using on the beaches. Mayor McCann asked Mr. Grant if he would look into this matter under the Public Facilities Committee.

Brian Bobincheck: Addressed the members of Council about his concerns with the street lighting and the safety for the general public. He asked when the matter would be addressed and when he could expect to see some updates to the crosswalks.

Skip Hoagland: Addressed the members of Council about her concerns regarding Chamber transparency.

11. Unfinished Business - None

12. New Business

a. Consideration of Recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Mr. Harkins moved that the award to the Gullah Museum be increased by \$5,000 and that the Town's grant be reduced by \$5,000. He further moved that the Hilton Head Island Airport be awarded an additional amount of \$40,000. This amount to be adjusted and moved from the U.S. 278 Flyover Beautification funds, not from ATAX. The Town Manager shall bring forward a Budget Amendment at a mid-year meeting. Mr. Grant seconded. Mayor McCann opened the discussion to the members of Council where brief statements were made relating to the ATAX Committee's recommendation. Many members of the general public also made statements concerning the Committee's recommendation. Upon no further comments from either the public or members of Council, the motion was approved 6-0 as amended.

12. New Business (cont.)

b. Consideration of a Recommendation – Utility Easement on Town-owned Parcel

Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Facilities Committee to Town Council, granting Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc. a permanent easement over and across the Town-owned parcel of land known as the Ashmore Tract.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve, Mr. Grant seconded. With no discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

c. Consideration of a Recommendation – Vision Phase 2/Comprehensive Plan

Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Planning Committee to Town Council authorizing the Town Manager to direct staff to (1) identify, attract, recruit, and leverage talent and resources to support Phase 2 of the Vision/Comprehensive Plan by utilizing an open application process to solicit members for the “Our Future Development Team” and “Community Vision Work Groups” and (2) allocate \$150,000 of the Town Council initiative budget to this project.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve, Mr. Ames seconded. Mr. Ames stated before finalizing the vote, he wanted to thank Town staff for their continued hard work and dedication to the Vision project. Mr. Riley took the opportunity of thanking Town staff to announce that Shawn Colin had accepted the promotion to Director of Community Development. With no further discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

d. Consideration of a Recommendation – Approval of Marketing Plan

Consideration of a Recommendation from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for the Chamber of Commerce Visitor and Convention Bureau’s proposed 2018-19 Marketing Plan.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve, Mr. Ames seconded. Mrs. Becker asked to abstain from the vote as she had not had an opportunity to review the Marketing Plan. Mayor McCann asked Mr. Riley to provide a copy to Mrs. Becker for future review. With some brief discussion from the members of Council as well as the general public, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0-1, with Mrs. Becker abstaining.

e. Consideration of a Recommendation – Planters Row Golf Course Lease

Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Planning recommending Town Council not extend the Golf Course Ground Lease with the Heritage Golf Group.

Mr. Harkins moved to amend the Recommendation, extending the lease one year as negotiated by the Town Manager, Mrs. Becker seconded. Mayor McCann opened the discussion up to the members of Council. Mr. Ames spoke in opposition of extending the lease, while other members of Council spoke in favor of extending. Members of the general public also spoke both against and for the extension of the lease. With the conclusion of the discussions, the motion as amended was approved by a vote of 5-1, with Mr. Ames opposed.

f. Consideration of a Resolution – SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank Resolution

Consideration of a Resolution of the Town Council supporting the joint pursuit, with Beaufort County, and in coordination with the State of South Carolina, the funding, analysis, and ultimate implementation of the Department of Transportation project known as “SCDOT Project ID PO30450 – U.S. 278 Corridor Improvements”, a portion of which is within the Town limits of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, in accordance with the plans of said project.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve, Mr. Lennox seconded. With no discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

13. Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session.

- a. Discussion of proposed contractual arrangements with the Town Attorney.

Mr. Harkins reported that during Executive Session the members of Town Council reviewed and discussed the contract for the Town Attorney which expires on December 31, 2018. He stated that during their discussions, Town Council would begin an open bid process for the procurement of a Town Attorney.

Mr. Harkins moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Gregg Alford to provide legal services as the Town Attorney on a month-to-month basis, while the Town considers its options regarding this service, Mr. Lennox seconded. With no discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

14. Adjournment

At 6:43 p.m., Mr. Harkins moved to adjourn, Mr. Grant seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved by a vote of 6-0

Krista M. Wiedmeyer,
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 01/02/2019

John J. McCann, Mayor