

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Monday, March 5, 2018

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Bill Harkins, *Chairman*, David Ames, *Council Member*, David Bennett, *Mayor and Committee Member*,

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Senator Tom Davis, Dr. Lynn McGee, *University of South Carolina Beaufort*, Stewart Rodman, *Beaufort County Council Member*, Tom Lennox, *Hilton Head Island Council Member*, Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Council Member Grant*, Eleanor Lightsey, *Lowcountry Inside Track*; and Various Members of the Public

Staff Present: Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief- Support Services*; Chris Blankenship, *Deputy Fire Chief- Operations*; Joheida Fister, *Fire Marshal*; Tom Dunn, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Cathy Jones-Gooding, *Communications Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities/ Chief Engineer*; Shawn Colin, *Deputy Director of Community Development*, Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*, Faidra Smith, *Administration Manager*, Darrin Shoemaker, *Traffic & Transportation Engineer*, Teri Lewis, *LMO Official*, Taylor Ladd, *Senior Planner- DRZ*, Phyllis Deiter, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Media Present: None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chairman Harkins.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2018 Intergovernmental and Public Safety Committee meeting was made by Mayor Bennett and seconded by David Ames. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

4. Unfinished Business

None.

5. New Business

- a. Update on Legislative Items of Interest for the 2018 General Assembly Session –

Senator Tom Davis

Chairman Harkins welcomed Senator Davis to the Committee asking him to speak about his insights on key issues that Beaufort County will be facing in the legislative process this year. Currently, the Senate Finance Committee is reviewing sections of the budget. Senator Davis is ensuring that an equitable amount of money comes back into our district in a number of different areas, including public education with K-12 funding, and funding for our local higher education campuses in Beaufort, Bluffton and Hilton Head Island. This includes University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) and the Technical College of the Low Country (TLC). Chairman Harkins would like to offer the assistance of Hilton Head Island and Senator Davis with regard to navigating through the political avenues. Senator Davis agreed, stating that collectively the Beaufort County Legislation Delegation will continue to develop seniority which will help in supporting the Town of Hilton Head and USCB.

Senator Davis updated the Committee on the Senate's focus of the VC Summer Nuclear Plant in Fairfield County. The State has taken possession of the site, and is in the process of inventorying the assets and arranging for the sale of certain components. They are being prudent to make sure that the nuclear license currently in place remains in good standing. This allows the option to remain open for the potential sale to a company looking to obtain a nuclear asset for their portfolio.

Another major initiative involves the pension reform with the State Retirement System. The General Assembly began the process last year with Part 1. This year, Part 2 includes moving from a Defined Benefit Plan, which is fiscally unsustainable, towards a Defined Contribution Plan. Completing the process requires all new employees, not existing hires or retirees, to be in Defined Contribution Plans.

Senator Davis commented on the progress being made with the Jasper Port. The South Carolina State Ports Authority and the Georgia Ports Authority are directed by the Governor and the General Assembly to obtain permits to move forward as quickly as possible. It is their goal to make sure the necessary infrastructure is put into place to make it a viable site, then let the marketplace dictate making it a reality. Mr. Harkins questioned if the permits relative to cost estimates are based on a function of time regarding a schedule centered on good will or was there a detailed schedule with time deadlines? The Senator confirmed that there was a detailed schedule from 3 years ago having the port operational by 2025.

Changing topics, Mr. Ames asked about affordable housing relating to neighboring legislation at the state level and inclusionary zoning. A conference with the Mayor in partnership with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and the Public Planning Committee indicated that different communities around the country are utilizing their state tax credit. This tax credit is responsible for 85% of affordable rental housing produced in the United States today. However, Hilton Head Island has received less than 4/10th of 1% of \$1.8 billion worth of tax credit in the past 30 years, diminishing our ability to be successful. The Senator explained how federal tax credits pass through the state. An Executive Branch state agency set up in Columbia scores an applicant's request and awards those credit allocations based on that scoring. The way

that the scoring is set up, Hilton Head Island simply can't hit enough of those boxes to score high enough. The Senator would like to meet with Governor McMaster and his Chief of Staff and request them to change that criteria administratively through an executive branch reorganization. A legislative response that is currently pending on the Senate calendar would make affordable housing exempt from certain property taxes and give more profit margin, convincing developers to move forward with affordable housing.

Mayor Bennett spoke of the need to develop a toolkit in regards to Senate Bill 346, which has been residing in the Senate Judiciary Committee for over a year. It is proposed legislation that takes a significant step forward in enabling municipalities to create a toolkit to meet the need of affordable housing. Examples of the tools would be the ability to waive impact fees, and offer utility tax and property tax abatements or exemptions. Senator Davis would support any bill that devolves more power down to the local level.

b. Decision Making Matrix for Future Plans for Bridge/278 Potential Project

Senator Davis spoke about financing for the bridge project. A portion of the financing for the bridge replacement will come from the SC Department of Transportation (DOT) budget. However, primarily DOT provides money for the maintenance and preserving of the roads and bridges. Another portion of the financing will come from the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB). The SIB is the financing vehicle whereby the state provides money for large capital projects. The process begins with demonstrating the need to the SIB board, and show there is local financing for the project. At most, the SIB will provide 70% funding, relying on local participation with the remaining component. Therefore, it is critical that the November 2018 referendum include the increase in sales tax to generate dollars to put towards the bridges, including the Lady's Island Bridge.

Mr. Harkins noted to Senator Davis that Hilton Head Island is on the edge of the largest project we have ever faced. Considering there are a plethora of individuals, including local, state and federal agencies getting involved in the development, he would appreciate any advice on the direction needed to move efficiently through the process. Senator Davis indicated that his office will be a resource for the staff to utilize. Mayor Bennett confirmed that Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce will take on a pivotal role to coordinate, organize, and advocate for this. There is the financial piece as well as the function and aesthetic pieces to consider with the bridge. With more tourists, residents and business moving down here, the bridge will be the first impression onto Hilton Head Island for the next 50-60 years.

Mr. Harkins asked if there were any public questions. Stu Rodman from Beaufort County commented on the residents of Sun City and their concern about the quality of life. Looking into the future, density will be an issue because of over capacity with the roadways, in particular Highway 170. The Senator agreed with the need for good zoning and land administration in the surrounding towns.

A local citizen asked Senator Davis about the toll on the Cross Island Parkway Bridge. He inquired who creates the toll, what is involved and who directs where it will be in the future. The Senator indicated that the toll was created in combination with the

Executive branch, Legislative and DOT for the Cross Island Parkway. That legislation calls for it to sunset once the bonds that were issued to pay for the Cross Island Parkway have been fully amortized. After that, to keep that particular toll, there would have to be a reauthorization. To put the toll somewhere else, it would take an action by the Legislature with concurrence by the Governor in order to establish.

Senator Davis concluded optimistically with the statement that the next 5- 10 years for our county will be a golden era for us. He sees Beaufort County being one of the most attractive places to live in the Country.

c. Presentation of the 2017 Fire Rescue Annual Report

Chief Tadlock began by introducing Deputy Chief Chris Blankenship, who was recently promoted to the Senior Management team.

The Fire Rescue PowerPoint presentation details the activity through the end of 2017 calendar year. Beginning with the total number of incidents, there is a slight decrease in total number of calls. The number of fire-related incidents remain consistent. An initiative for this coming year for the Battalion Chief of Emergency Medical Services is look at the EMS calls. The department will determine how these are being handled and coded to evaluate if there is value for Fire Rescue to provide other types of services.

The presentation continued with the number of calls for service in regard to day of week and time of day. Fire loss was noted for damage over \$50,000 including a description of the newly listed losses for the remainder of 2017.

The slide, 2017 Top Ten EMS Incident Types, Mr. Ames requested a description of what was included in the category "General Illness." Chief Tadlock explained that it is a catch-all category typical of how EMS systems code their reports. The Fire Rescue personnel will not necessarily know the outcome of a patient after being dropped off at the hospital. In the future, Fire Rescue would like to have a system where they can see the outcome. This would help bring to light areas that might need further attention.

The next slide indicated which EMS calls involved a local citizen vs visitor to the area. The Chief explained that a number of the local calls are repeats. This sometimes occurs when Fire Rescue staff are placed in the role of care giver. In the future, the department looks to examine those numbers and consider proactive options, utilizing the health care professionals thereby further decreasing the emergency calls.

Chief Tadlock spoke about the 2017 out-of-hospital cardiac arrest data. Fire Rescue's initiatives in regard to AEDs, community engagement, public CPR classes, and the staff's additional training has led to positive outcomes. Hilton Head Island's survival rate is at 68.75% for the year, one of the highest survival rates in the nation.

The following slide looked at the response times for Fire Rescue. With a combination of Alarm Handling, Turnout Time and Travel Time, their total Response Time is 8:24 minutes (9 times out of ten times.) To help further lower this response time number, the department is requesting a grant to put in a new station alerting system.

Battalion Chief Joheida Fister spoke about the fire risks and how to offer improvements within the community. The data indicates that the highest number of fire calls originate

in the cooking area. This is an area to focus with public education. Another education program is called "Fire in the Streets." The department will work within a neighborhood to check smoke detectors within homes, involving installation and/or verify the existing ones are in working. Citizens are also welcome to call any time for Fire Rescue to come to their home. The department also looks at how they are doing "fire-wise," ideally catching a fire before it gets too big? Last year, 16 out of 28 fires were confined to the place of origin. The department looks to continue training and evaluating each fire to ensure that the best possible outcome.

The 2017 Open Burning report shows Fire Rescue is continuing to do a good job with the burning program. The program involves checking every permit, size of the debris pile, availability of water, and an in-person monitor constantly watching the fire. Citations are issued if not being done correctly. The department is seeing better results.

i) Presentation of E911 Addressing Guidelines

Cathy Jones Gooding presented a brief overview on addressing of developments, complexes and street names. Ms. Gooding spoke about the entire system and how our town addressing impacts Beaufort County. Some of the factors to consider when naming a location are the Post Office, FedEx, rental property needs and public safety for emergency responses. Mayor Bennett asked about the thought process behind the naming of the new park to be built on Pope Avenue. Ms. Gooding noted that staff spoke with the community where the park is going to reside. With input from her team, the citizens decide upon a name. Community growth and redevelopment are issues that need to be addressed before consideration of a name. It comes down to compromise through the layers.

Chief Tadlock finished the presentation noting the upcoming initiatives for Fire Rescue, which range from a Leadership Retreat in March, Strategic Planning in May and the Standard Cover Document updated in July.

Public comments were solicited with no further discussion items.

6. Adjournment

There was a motion for adjournment by Mr. Ames, and seconded by Mayor Bennett. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Deiter
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 05/07/2018

Bill Harkins, Chairman