



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Intergovernmental Committee**

Monday, August 5, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.  
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

## Meeting Minutes

- Present From the Committee:** William Harkins, Chairman; David Ames, Tom Lennox
- Present from Town Council:** Marc Grant, Tamara Becker
- Present from Town Staff:** Josh Gruber, Assistant Town Manager; Shawn Colin, Director of Community Development; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Phyllis Deiter, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Present from Media:** Eleanor Lightsey, Katherine Kokal
- 

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:0 AM by Chairman Harkins.

### 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

- a. A motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 Intergovernmental and Public Safety Committee meeting was made by David Ames and seconded by Tom Lennox. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.
- b. A motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2019 Intergovernmental and Public Safety Committee Special meeting was made David Ames and seconded by Tom Lennox. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

### 4. Unfinished Business

None.

### 5. New Business

- a. Discussion of Palmetto Breeze Bus Service to Colleton County

Chairman Harkins opened the meeting, stating that both items on the agenda were for discussion purposes. This was a meeting to start a dialog, ask questions, obtain feedback and move forward with the agenda items.

Josh Gruber presented the Palmetto Breeze Bus Service item to the committee. The Palmetto Breeze is the Lowcountry Regional Transit Authority. They are charged with providing mass transit within the Lowcountry area. They service not only Beaufort County, but also the surrounding counties. The route for discussion is Route 320, which starts in Walterboro, comes down through Hendersonville, Jonesville, Yemassee, Roseland, Bluffton

and ultimately ends with several stops on Hilton Head Island. The bus holds roughly 50 people and is understood to run full, being utilized by many who work on the Island but live in the northern parts of Beaufort and Colleton County. The Town was made aware during budget discussions that Colleton County had decided to no longer to provide funding for this route.

There was further discussion about the short-term funding, and thoughts on the ramifications of additional funding. The Committee made comments and inquiries regarding their thoughts and concerns for the impacted parties. The Committee noted the affected parties as the workers, including where they live, work and shop; the different communities on the route; the hotels and businesses; and the Town of Hilton Head Island. Further information has been requested, such as Colleton County's contribution last year; Hilton Head Island's contribution to the Palmetto Breeze; and the long-term Regional Transportation plan for the local transportation services.

**b. Discussion of Windmill Harbour/Jenkins Island Annexation**

Josh Gruber presented the Windmill Harbour/Jenkins Island Annexation item to the committee. Mr. Gruber started with a historical background, beginning with the formation of the Town as a municipal body and how these noted areas were not initially brought into the Town limits. He continued to detail that there are areas after the bridge outside the municipal limits; in particular, Windmill Harbour, Blue Heron, Mariner's Cove and the RV Resort. This is the basis for the question of whether those areas should or should not be brought into the Town limits. Recently, the Town was approached by representatives in Windmill Harbour regarding the possibility of conducting an annexation referendum. It was a citizen driven initiative where the Town drafted the petition question that was designed for everyone that lived in that area, not just those living in Windmill Harbour. The Town representatives answered questions and provided the requested information. However, the Town did not proactively reach out to all of the noted communities. Discussions occurred within Windmill Harbour; however, a large number of the other properties in the areas of Mariner's Cove, Blue Heron and the RV Resort were not receiving any feedback directly. Bringing in one community over the whole area has the potential to create donut holes of service. For example, Fire Rescue services outside the Town's municipal boundary will have calls for service relayed to a station off Island in Bluffton. There are times when the bridge could be crowded, thus slowing the response time for those service calls. With the continued questions and time frame, Windmill Harbour agreed not to pursue the annexation referendum question this year.

The Committee made comments and asked additional questions about what will be needed when this question comes up for future consideration. Areas of deliberation range from the potential presentation of the annexation referendum question to the unincorporated areas; future conversations with those areas for questions and answers regarding such items as potential service calls; sewers and utilities; taxes and the mil rate; as well as the US 278 project.

Chairman Harkins asked for public comments. Marc Grant presented statements with additional questions related to Palmetto Breeze Bus Service and annexation of the noted area.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 AM.

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved 10/07/2019:**  
\_\_\_\_\_