

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Monday, January 31, 2019
Special Meeting

Members Present: Bill Harkins, *Chairman*, David Ames, *Council Member*, and Tom Lennox, *Committee Member*

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tamara Becker, *Town Council Member*; Patsy Brison; Chester C Williams, *Attorney*; Frank Babel, *Co-Chair of the Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee*; Heather Rath; and other citizens

Staff Present: Josh Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Chris Darnell, *Urban Designer*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities/ Chief Engineer*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Phyllis Deiter, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Media Present: Eleanor Lightsey, *Lowcountry Inside Track*; Katherine Kokal, *The Island Packet*; Andrew Davis, *WSAV*; Alex Littlehales, *WJCL*

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

4. Unfinished Business

a. Update on Overhead Lighting of William Hilton Parkway at Un-signalized High-Speed Crosswalks

Chairman Harkins began the meeting by asking for an update on the overhead lighting of William Hilton Parkway at the Yacht Cove crosswalk area. Chris Darnell, Urban Designer for the Town, spoke to the committee regarding the review of the crosswalk lighting at the Design & Review Board meeting on January 8, 2019. The Design & Review Board (DRB) commented on the plan provided by Palmetto Electric to light the Yacht Cove intersection as a pilot project for the other eleven unlighted intersections on US 278. The DRB agreed that the preapproved Autobahn fixture was aesthetically appropriate to light the crosswalks. This fixture was specifically noted as unobtrusive and designed to blend into the scenery. Mr. Darnell indicated the DRB further stated that the crosswalk lighting poles should be consistent with the existing traffic light mast arm. The mounting arms should be horizontal with a shorter pole height to create a more pedestrian-scale environment versus a lighted highway environment. Since shorter poles would mean more poles to light the same area, the DRB requested a plan of the area.

Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects & Facilities/ Chief Engineer, was asked to address the committee. Based on the comments that emanated from the DRB and the recommendation from Palmetto Electric, it is suggested that the Town pursue an independent consultant to design a lighting plan at the Yacht Cove intersection. Mr. Liggett also noted that because of the lower height level, a new photometric plan based on that height level will need to be developed to provide sufficient illumination to meet the South Carolina Department of Transportation's standards. That will likely mean more poles than previously represented in the schematic that was shared with the Committee and Council previously. He indicated that the suggested height reduction from 35 feet down to 21 feet is material in photometric programming. Staff will have the opportunity to make any further recommendations as they see necessary regarding their aesthetic judgement prior to approaching South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for approval. From a financial standpoint, the Town has money in the Capital Improvement Plan to fund access and safety enhancement projects, such as this one.

Mr. Harkins raised a question to Josh Gruber, Assistant Town Manager. If this is advanced to Town Council, are we subjecting the Town to the same lighting fixtures at the other crosswalk locations? Mr. Gruber indicated that the Committee has been clear; this is a pilot project. Since there has been approval for striping and signage at the crosswalk, the next step is gaining approval to move forward with the lighting. There is little risk investing money into this project because the Town will need the infrastructure to have lighting at that crosswalk and the approved fixtures can be moved elsewhere if deemed unacceptable at the Yacht Cove crosswalk area.

Chairman Harkins requested public comments. Frank Babel, Co-Chair of the Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee, spoke to the committee regarding continuing education in regards to bicycle safety with tourists and citizens of Hilton Head Island. Mr. Babel provided information to the Committee members. Patsy Brison concurred with Mr. Babel. Ms. Brison spoke further about the aesthetics and lighting options from SCDOT standards as well as the Federal Highway standards. Ms. Brison provided an exhibit from the Federal Highway Lighting handbook regarding crosswalks and lighting system selections. With no further comments, Mr. Harkins brought the matter back to the dais.

Mr. Lennox noted that he had previously spoken about the Complete Streets concept with Mr. Babel and Ms. Brison. He concurred that there is merit continuing this discussion to apply various elements of Complete Streets to specific areas on Hilton Head Island. Mr. Ames noted that there needs to be a balance between the Hilton Head Island brand and SCDOT where the crosswalk design will create the message of safety and as well as aesthetically appealing.

Mr. Lennox made a motion that the Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee recommend to Town Council the adoption of this agenda item, as presented. Chairman Harkins included in the motion the request to the Town Manager that Town staff to continue to review other alternatives that may be more aesthetically pleasing to Town Council's vision for the Hilton Head Island brand. This was seconded by Mr. Ames. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

5. New Business

a. None

6. Adjournment

With no further business items, and no further items the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Deiter
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 03/04/2019

Bill Harkins, Chairman