



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Public Planning Committee Special Meeting**

December 19, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Present from the Committee:** Chairman David Ames, Tamara Becker, Bill Harkins, Tom Lennox

**Absent from the Committee:** Glenn Stanford

**Others Present from Town Council:** Mayor McCann

**Present from Town Staff:** Shawn Colin, Director of Community Development; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Joshua Gruber, Assistant Town Manager; Sally Krebs, Sustainable Practices Coordinator; Teri Lewis, Deputy Director of Community Development; Jayme Lopko, Senior Planner; Jennifer Ray, Deputy Director of Community Development; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant

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### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Ames called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Special Meeting December 3, 2019

The minutes of the Special Meeting December 3, 2019 were approved by general consent.

### **4. Unfinished Business**

- a. Review of Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance Revisions

Ms. Cyran presented the item as described in the Committee's agenda package. Staff recommends the Public Planning Committee forward the proposed revisions to the Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance to Town Council with a recommendation of approval.

The Committee discussed and made inquiries regarding: the benefits the revisions will provide to sea turtle protection; possible difficulties the revisions may impose for buildings to be constructed; sea turtle nesting season is the period from May 1 through October 31 each year; clarification of the 0.45 light transmittance value; provide more options for people to comply with the ordinance; lights shall not be permitted to be on all night; whether the ordinance would apply to properties beyond the first row from the beach; the importance of public education and enforcement of the ordinance.

Chairman Ames asked for public comments and received the following: add "disorientation" to the purpose statement; remove "illuminate" from Sections 4 and 7 and indicate that no artificial light shall be visible from the beach; remove "fixture" from exterior light fixtures; add if a light is downward directed and shielded, but still visible from the beach, then the bulb shall be turtle friendly; revise Sections 4 and 7 to include options for construction sites to use a motion detector or turtle friendly bulb; revise Section 7(f) to include options to use a turtle friendly bulb or dimmer to reduce light transmittance value to the required 0.45 or less.

Following the discussion and public comment, the Committee directed Staff to come back with language that addresses the following:

- Revise the purpose statement in Section 2 to add “disorientation”.
- Revise Sections 4 and 7 to add the requirement that construction lights shall be activated by a motion detector or shall use turtle friendly bulbs. The change shall be implemented by May 1, 2020.

The Committee thanked the public and Staff for their work.

**5. New Business – None**

**6. Committee Business**

- a. Discussion of expectations and ideas as they relate to transportation solutions and workforce availability

Mr. Colin presented the background of transportation as it relates to workforce availability leading up to today. Staff asked the Committee provide direction on areas of focus to connect employees whether on or off island to jobs on the island.

The Committee presented comments regarding: provide additional support to Palmetto Breeze and consider increasing revenue sources to provide routes and equipment needed; work with SCDOT and surrounding counties to get a dedicated lane or lane reversal for Palmetto Breeze or a park and ride or rideshare; explore incentives to encourage people to use rideshare; look at properties to hold parking for a rideshare or park and ride service; examine what the Town’s role should be in this effort; examine the roles of the County and surrounding counties; collect information on the size of the transportation problem; consider multiple solutions such as transporting people to and from US-278 and I-95 down to a smaller scale on the island; support the private sector in their existing transportation efforts; look at various funding sources that are not being used currently; review best practices of other cities and draw from their successes; partner with the Chamber of Commerce, LCOG, SOLOCO; explore what role, if any, the Town plays in workforce development; consider better and safer island circulation for bicyclists; examine technology and innovative ideas; explore a discussion on keeping the toll in place as a source of revenue; examine the work of the Our Plan Work Groups for related information.

Chairman Ames asked for public comments and received the following: provide more support to Palmetto Breeze; continue discussions on public private partnerships; consider transportation for hospitality workers outside of regular business hours; consider partnering with rideshare programs.

Staff will review the items discussed today and return with an update at the next regular meeting.

**7. Staff Updates – None**

**8. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today’s Agenda – None**

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Teresa Haley, Secretary

**Approved:** January 23, 2020