

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Present from Town Staff: Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Josh Gruber, *Assist. Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Director of Community Development*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Exec. Assist/Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting order at 2:00 p.m. By way of roll call, Mayor McCann confirmed the attendance of all members of Council.

2. FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been 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. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Invocation – Senior Pastor Neil Yongue, Jr. – St. Andrew by the Sea

Pastor Yongue delivered the invocation.

5. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ames moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. By way of roll call, the agenda was approved as written by a vote of 7-0.

6. Guest Speakers

a. Update from Jeremy Clark, CEO, Hilton Head Regional Healthcare

Jeremy Clark, CEO of Hilton Head Regional Healthcare, provided an update on operations currently taking place at Hilton Head Hospital. Mr. Clark reported that the hospital system has been focusing on four primary goals: testing, screening, spacing, and cleaning. He said that they have received the new Abbott ID for testing, which will assist in turning results around quicker. Mr. Clark said that the no visitor policy is still in place and working out well to keep the spread down in the hospitals. He said anyone who comes to the hospital is asked questions about their current health, travel, and other necessary screening questions. Mr. Clark reported that they have implemented new spacing protocol which includes spacing the chairs in waiting rooms and ensuring every patient has their own private room. He also talked about the cleaning protocol that has been put into place. He said besides the everyday cleaning their Environmental Services provides, the intake clerks in the ER are cleaning and disinfecting their windows after each patient. Other departments are also doing the same to ensure things stay clean and disinfected. Mr. Clark introduced Dr. Bennett, President of Hospital Staff. Dr. Bennett talked about the testing, reporting that results are coming back as quickly as 24 hours after sending out. He said they have a great relationship with DHEC and with local private labs which has helped expedite the testing.

6. Guest Speakers (cont.)

b. Update from Bill Miles, President and CEO, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce

Bill Miles, President and CEO, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation to Council on the Path Forward Readiness Plan. Mr. Miles stated that in collaboration with Chamber staff, residents, and community leaders, they have begun to work on a plan to restore the community. He said that the Path Forward Readiness Plan will focus on the protocols to put in place so the community can safely reopen seven key sectors of the business community; restaurants, retail, lodging, recreation, small business, childcare, and faith organizations. Mr. Miles reviewed the seven chairs for each sector task force, noting the task forces are made up of more than 100 individuals from the business and government sectors, as well as residents. He said that Path Forward Readiness Plan will be led by a steering committee that includes representation from the healthcare community. Mr. Miles stated that task force meetings kicked off earlier in the day and will continue over the next two days. He said this week, they will be working toward the common goal of reopening the economy safely. The goal is to have the recommendations for business best practices available by May 15th. Mr. Miles said additional information about the Path Forward Readiness Plan at www.thepathforward.org. He closed his presentation, by saying the plan is to reopen the community when the time is right. Before concluding his update to Council, Mr. Miles noted that they would be coming to Council to look for an investment from the Restricted Advertising Account. He noted when they do that, it would be a three pronged approach: in the very beginning, to get things up and running slowly, the hyper-local would be the first thing to focus on to immediately help the economic recovery; secondly, looking at the regional drive markets; and third, phasing in the fly markets. Mr. Miles noted that one very positive thing, is that the resorts and hotel community has relaxed their cancellation policies to guests.

7. Consent Agenda: Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes

- a. Regular Town Council Meeting, March 17, 2020**
- b. Emergency Town Council Meeting, March 21, 2020**
- c. Emergency Town Council Meeting, March 26, 2020**
- d. Emergency Town Council Meeting, March 30, 2020**
- e. Emergency Town Council Meeting, April 3, 2020**
- f. Emergency Town Council Meeting, April 7, 2020**
- g. Emergency Town Council Meeting, April 10, 2020**
- h. Emergency Town Council Meeting, April 21, 2020**

Mr. Harkins moved to the Consent Agenda. Mr. Stanford seconded. With no discussion on this items, by way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

8. Staff Update on Recovery Functions – Shawn Colin, Director of Community Development

Shawn Colin, Director of Community Development, gave an update on initial recovery functions currently in place. Mr. Colin reported that the Recovery Plan is designed to supplement the Town's Emergency Operation's Plan and identify departments and agencies to aid disaster victims in conjunction with Federal, State, and County governments and coordinate emergency recovery activities. He noted the achievement of some short-term recovery objectives: the implementation of continuity of government procedures, establishing any temporary facilities/structures needed for Town operations, and short-term public information/community relations activities. Mr. Colin also reported that long-term recovery activities are currently being evaluated for implementation. He discussed the recent changes to the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program funding. He said these allowed for the adjustment of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to include COVID-19 response and recovery.

9. Review and Discussion of Latest DHEC COVID-19 Data

Mr. Riley reviewed the latest COVID-19 data provided by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. He showed Council where within the Town's website this information is readily available. Mr. Riley confirmed the DHEC reported both the number of reported new cases as well as the cumulative overall reported cases.

10. Consideration of Amendments to Existing Emergency Closure of Public Beach and Park Access

Mr. Harkins made a motion to amend the existing emergency closure of public beach and park access. The amendments noted are as follows: May 1, 2020, open access to Islanders Beach Park and Coligny Beach. All spaces are reserved for beach pass holders, including metered spaces until further notice. Bathrooms will open as soon as safely possible. Playgrounds, picnic shelters will remain closed. Rental of beach equipment is prohibited. Trash and recycle pick-up and removal will be restored for the entire beach. May 7, 2020, open access to Jarvis Creek Park and Crossings Park. No team sports will be prohibited at Crossings Park. All playgrounds, recreational equipment and picnic shelters will remain closed. Restrooms will be opened. May 12, 2020, Town Council shall hold a special meeting to discuss and determine next steps. Mr. Ames seconded the motion to amend the existing emergency closure of public beach and park access. The members of Council discussed the item at length, which included an opposing opinion from Mr. Grant. By way of roll call, the motion to approve the amendments was approved by a vote of 6-1. Mr. Grant opposed.

11. Amendments to Existing Emergency Ordinance Regulating Parking and Towing of Vehicles

Mr. Riley led the discussion about the current emergency ordinance regulating parking and town of vehicles. Mr. Harkins moved to maintain the existing emergency ordinance. Mrs. Becker seconded. The members of Council had a brief discussion on this item. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

12. First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2020-11 – Town Code Update of Parking and Towing

First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2020-11 to amend the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, by amending Sections 12-3-211, 12-3-412, 12-3-413, and 12-5-112, and by adding Section 12-3-213 and by deleting Section 12-3-411, to declare certain activities related to the parking of vehicles to be unlawful, to declare unlawfully parked vehicles to be a public nuisance, to provide for the towing of vehicles that are found to be a public nuisance; providing for exemptions; and providing for severability and an effective date.

Mr. Riley clarified that once adopted, this ordinance would replace the emergency ordinance currently in place. Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. With no additional discussion about this matter, the motion was approved by way of roll call, 7-0.

13. Town Council Discussion

Mayor McCann called on each member of Council who discussed items of importance to the community.

14. Executive Session

Mr. Riley stated that he had a need to enter Executive Session for a discussion on personnel matters regarding Town Council appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

At 3:31 p.m. Mr. Harkins moved to enter Executive Session for the matter described by Mr. Riley. Mr. Stanford seconded. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

15. Possible action by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session

16. Adjournment

Council returned from Executive Session, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Approved: May 12, 2020

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

John J. McCann, Mayor