



# Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN COUNCIL Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m. MEETING MINUTES

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

**Present from Town Staff:** Marc Orlando, *Town Manager*; Josh Gruber, *Deputy Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Advisor to the Town Manager*; John Troyer, *Finance Director*; Chris Yates, *Interim Director of Community Development*; Shari Mendrick, *Floodplain Administrator*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Town Clerk*

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## 1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**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. Roll Call

Roll was taken by the Town Clerk, and attendance was confirmed.

## 4. Invocation – Brett Myers, Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church Hilton Head Island

Pastor Myers delivered the invocation.

## 5. Pledge to the Flag

## 6. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Town Council Workshop – August 16, 2021
- b. Town Council Regular Meeting – August 17, 2021
- c. Town Council Special Meeting – August 19, 2021
- d. Town Council Workshop – August 23, 2021

Mr. Harkins said, as your recall, during our September 21, 2021 Town Council meeting, in item 12(b) on page five, of the minutes, we approved the Office of Cultural Affairs Strategic Plan by a vote of six in favor and one abstention. He said that it is noted that Councilwoman Becker abstained once she determined that the plan under consideration would in fact be included in the Town's greater strategic plan. Mr. Harkins said it had been further noted in the Section entitled Educational Curriculum, "it's not built yet" would be an integral part of the Strategic Plan. He said therefor, upon further consideration, he believed the Council to be precipitous and approving the Art Council Strategic Plan, because we did not have the educational curriculum before them. Mr. Harkins moved to rescind the original approval of the Office of Cultural Affairs Strategic Plan until the educational curriculum is fully identified and reviewed by Council. Mrs. Becker seconded the motion.

Mayor McCann opened the discussion up to the members of Town Council. Mr. Stanford noting that he felt it was not appropriate for Council to approve something before they had seen it. He noted that they had seen some of the Strategic Plan, but not everything.

Mr. Brown clarified with Mr. Harkins, stating that the plan did not actually say "it's not built yet", but that the Minutes from the same meeting reflect that as a statement made by Mr. Orlando. Mr. Brown said that there were other portions of the plan that were not complete, and questioned why the educational curriculum was more important than the other pieces. Mr. Harkins said it was because the educational curriculum was an integral part of the strategic plan, and given that, the approval should have been withheld.

Mrs. Becker also said this was the second time that she had asked for the specifics with regard to what the curriculum would entail, she said it was the second time that no answer was provided. Mrs. Becker said that she guessed at this point the assumption was since there wasn't answer, that nothing had been developed. She went onto say that she felt very strongly that Council has an obligation to be sure the Council knows, understands and agree with every point within a document that they are asked to approve. Mrs. Becker said, further, she strongly believed that it is the duty of Council to know if, when, where and how taxpayer monies are being spent, and that this wasn't the first time she had asked these types of questions. She said that she felt it would make sense for all of Council, in the future, to make sure that they're not approving documents that are not complete and answer those questions that she just referred to.

Mr. Brown said he appreciated the concerns that were being raised, but that he was still struggling with the difference between the educational component and the other components that are not complete. He further asked, what is it about the educational component that we need to be concerned about that requires rescinding the approval.

Mrs. Becker said that she was not leaving any component out. In her opinion, Council has an obligation when passing policy to understand what it is that is being passed. She said that she felt transparency was important and that Council is asked to provide it.

Mr. Brown said that this document went through Committee and was in front of Council, and was approved when roll was called. He repeated that he was confused as to what and why this was being rescinded. Mr. Brown repeated that nearly every portion of the plan they reviewed and approved was incomplete, but why was it just the educational portion that was being questioned. He concluded by stating he disagreed with the decision.

Mr. Ames said that he was piggybacking on what Mr. Brown said, because he felt Mr. Brown was raising the right issues. He said that this document was a strategic plan and unless the Town Manager is uncomfortable that it doesn't go far enough, then he was very comfortable in restating his enthusiastic yes vote when this item was approved. Mr. Ames said, if it is the pleasure of the rest of Council to highlight the education area, he would recommend that the motion be amended and accept the plan exempting the education piece.

Mayor McCann asked if there was a second for Mr. Ames amendment. With no reply, Mayor McCann called for the vote on the original motion to rescind the approval of the Office of Cultural Affairs' Strategic Plan. The motion carried by a vote of 5-2, Mr. Brown and Mr. Ames both opposed the motion.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve the minutes noted on the agenda. Mr. Stanford seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Orlando stated that he would work closely and diligently with Ms. McEwen to refine the strategic plan. He said he heard the questions that were raised, asking the Town Council to stay tuned as he works on this plan with them.

## **7. Report of the Town Manager**

### **a. Items of Interest**

Mr. Orlando reviewed several items of interest including information on upcoming vaccine and testing dates. He said the information would be provided and updated on the Town's social media outlets. Mr. Orlando also reviewed and congratulated Town staff on the recent receipt of the award received for the Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. He reviewed with Town Council news that at the next meeting, they would receive updates on several of the items they had asked about.

## **8. Reports from the Members of Town Council**

### **a. General Reports from Town Council**

Mr. Brown stated that he felt the Town was very bold with the process they took on the visioning process, before writing the comprehensive plan. He said he was excited about what came out of that process through work groups and extensive work. Mr. Brown said the piece that is really sticking with him is the whole inclusive area. He said our Council itself is quite diverse, through different backgrounds, different education, color of skin and even agenda. Mr. Brown said when he was elected and went through the orientation process, he was disappointed that Council did not receive diversity training. He said that he understands Mr. Orlando has said it out loud that is part of his plan, but he wanted to offer up that such training start with the leadership first. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Orlando to see about obtaining a professional to take the Town Council through some appropriate training. He said because of the different backgrounds, he felt it was crucial to have diversity training.

### **b. Report of the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study – Councilman Stanford**

Mr. Stanford reported that at their last committee meeting, the SCDOT reported that they had received 546 public comments about the proposed plan for US 278. He reported that the SCDOT stated that with regard to the project, they are working diligently to finalize the environmental assessment associated with the project.

### **c. Report of the Lowcountry Council of Governments – Councilwoman Becker**

Mrs. Becker reported that a number of items were discussed at the last meeting. One of the items reported on was on smart streets. She said if anyone wanted a copy, she would be happy to share the PowerPoint from the presentation with them.

### **d. Report of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission – Councilman Brown**

Mr. Brown stated he did not have a report.

### **e. Report of the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board – Councilman Lennox**

Mr. Lennox reported that the board received a presentation on the American Rescue Plan funding and what is to be received from the Federal government. He said a brief discussion was had on the County's upcoming referendum and the new form of government.

**f. Report of the Beaufort County Airports Board – Councilman Ames**

Mr. Ames reported on the new ramp expansion next to the terminal, noting that the work had begun. He said there was new screening equipment installed and should move the lines along quicker through TSA. Mr. Ames said that the passenger counts are still high, but are trending downward.

**g. Report of the Community Services & Public Safety Committee – Councilman Harkins**

Mr. Harkins reported that at the last Committee meeting, they received a staff presentation on the acquisition of the Main Street Right-of-Way. He asked Mayor McCann if this item could be considered for the next Council meeting.

**h. Report of the Public Planning Committee – Councilman Ames**

Mr. Ames reported that the Committee received a presentation from the consulting firm working on the Short Term Rental ordinance. He noted that this firm has extensive knowledge of such matters.

**i. Report of the Finance & Administrative Committee – Councilman Lennox**

Mr. Lennox reported that the Committee's next meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on October 19, 2021.

**9. Appearance by Citizens**

**Taima Nagle:** addressed the Mayor and Town Council on her concerns with different forms of violence where she resides.

**Skip Hoagland:** addressed the Mayor and Town Council on financial matters related to the Town and Chamber.

**10. Consent Agenda**

**a. Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2021-22 – Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendments**

Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2021-22 to amend the Budget for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022; to provide for the budgeted appropriations of prior year Budget Roll Forwards and certain other appropriations and commitments and the expenditures of certain funds; to allocate the sources of revenue for the said funds; and providing for severability and an effective date.

**b. Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2021-17 – 2020 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Second Reading of the Proposed Ordinance 2021-17 to adopt the “2020 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan” as an appendix of “Our Plan, the Town of Hilton Head Island 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan”; and providing for severability and an effective date.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Mr. Stanford seconded. Mrs. Becker asked a couple questions about the contracting with the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Mr. Orland stated that it was 99% completed. With little additional discussion, the motion carried by a vote of 6-0-1, Mrs. Becker abstaining.

## **11. Unfinished Business**

### **a. Consideration of a Resolution – Local Option Sales Tax**

Consideration of a Resolution of the Town of Hilton Head Island supporting the conducting of a Local Option Sales Tax, providing for the distribution and usage of revenues generated thereunder, and authorizing the Town's participation in a public education effort in partnership with other local governments in Beaufort County.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. Mr. Troyer made a presentation to the Mayor and Town Council. He reviewed the resolution and what it was that Council would be supporting if they approved. With some discussion, a question was raised about the community education on the referendum, and if the Town was required to go with the other municipalities or could the Town handle their own community education. Mr. Orlando explained that some time back, the County Council had approved moving the referendum to the ballot. He explained that the other municipalities had also acquired the consultant to do the community education. The Mayor and Town Council agreed that it would be in the voters best interest to have the Town acquire their own educational outreach on the LOST referendum. Mr. Stanford amended the initial motion, authorizing the Town Manager to conduct an information campaign directed to the citizens of Hilton Head Island concerning the Local Options Sales Tax, which has been placed on the ballot by Beaufort County, adding the campaign would cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Ames seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. The initial motion was withdrawn.

## **12. Executive Session.**

At 4:43 p.m., Town Council adjourned to Executive Session.

- a. Receipt of legal advice concerning pending, threatened, or potential claim related to Mitchelville Lane and Sandcastles by the Sea [pursuant to SC Freedom of Information Act § 30-4-70(a)(2)]

## **13. Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session**

## **14. Adjournment**

Town Council returned from Executive Session with nothing to report. By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

**Approved: October 5, 2021**

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Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

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John J. McCann, Mayor