

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Meeting

January 24, 2023 – 2:30 PM



[Watch Live Stream \(YouTube\)](#)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Roll Call – Freedom of Information – Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gregg called the January 24, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 2:30PM. Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, Zoning Administrator Newman, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2022
- Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2023

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of December 12th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of December 12th were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of January 10th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of January 10th were approved.

3. Presentations:

- Councilman Kortvelesy: Update from the Johns Island Task Force for the Angel Oak Preserve

Councilman Kortvelesy summarized the presentation from the Angel Oak Preserve at the Johns Island Task Force. Councilman Kortvelesy noted that the Angel Oak Preserve has allocated Green Belt Funds from the Town in previous years.

4. Public Hearing Items:

None.

5. Citizens Comments:

Town Clerk Watkins listed the individuals who submitted public comments prior to the meeting.

A copy of the comments is available with these minutes and upon request.

6. Reports of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

- **Advisory Committees**

- Community Promotions and Engagement Committee

Councilwoman Fox summarized the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee meeting which was held on January 19th.

Councilwoman Fox noted the upcoming Community Promotions and Engagement Committee meeting for February 16th has been canceled.

- Environment and Wildlife Committee

Councilwoman Finke summarized the Environment and Wildlife Committee which was held on January 12th and the presentation by Abby Sterling, PhD, Manomet, Director of Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative.

Councilwoman Finke noted the committee will have a special meeting on January 31st.

- Public Safety Committee

Councilman Kortvelesy summarized the Public Safety Committee meeting which was held on January 17th.

Councilman Kortvelesy commented on the public comment received prior to the meeting regarding LSV's between the gate and the traffic circle.

Councilman Kortvelesy noted the next Disaster Recovery Council meeting will be held on March 21st in lieu of the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

A discussion was had on emergency access cards and what the meeting means when returning to the island.

- Public Works Committee

- Discussion of drawings for the proposed Town Hall Annex and Garage.

Councilman Goldstein summarized the revised architectural drawings for the proposed Town Hall Annex and Garage.

Council clarified the new proposed entrance to Town Hall with regards to the bike path and the EV charging spaces.

- **Special Committees**

None.

- **Ad Hoc Committees**

Councilwoman Finke noted the Short-Term Rental Ad Hoc committee will be presenting an update to the short-term rental ordinance in February.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals**

None.

- **Planning Commission**

None.

- **State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

None.

- **Utility Commission**

Commissioner Smith-Jones summarized the Seabrook Island Utility Commission meeting which was held on January 18th.

Commissioner Smith-Jones noted the financials for December are delayed due to a staffing change with the comptroller.

Commissioner Smith-Jones summarized the financials for November 2022 and operations report for the month of November and December 2022.

Council discussed the transition between the old contractor and the new contractor and what the new contractor can provide that the other did not offer.

Council clarified if the Utility Commission had any issues with the system due to the freeze during December.

7. Reports Town Officers:

- **Mayor**

- Update on Town's Request for Public Assistance in Consequence of Hurricane Ian

Copy from Mayors Notes

- Follow-up with MUSC Concerning Town Donation

Copy from Mayors Notes

- Acknowledgement of Acceptance for Candidate for Communications and Events Manager Position

Copy from Mayors Notes

Town Administrator Cronin noted Ms. Ochoa will begin on or around March 1st.

- **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the status of the implementation with MyGov, the new permitting and licensing software.

Council clarified if there is a move to go online by 2024 if there will be a kiosk where residents and contractors can fill out the forms at Town Hall.

Council clarified if the new software will be an app or web-based browser.

- **Town Clerk/Treasurer**

- Report of Financials for the Month of December 2022

Ms. Watkins summarized the financials for December as follows:

- Total fund balance ending on December 31, 2022, was \$8,398,562 an amount about \$1,344,829 more than the balance as of December 31, 2021.
- Unrestricted revenue for December totaled \$336,973 and unrestricted revenue for the year totaled \$2,064,299 representing about 134.6% for the 2022 annual budget and being about \$307,813 more than for the same period in 2021.
- Expenditures for December totaled \$162,060, and expenditures for the year totaled \$1,232,041 which is 83.0% of the 2022 annual budget.
- Expenditures for the year were about \$185,902 more compared to the same period of 2021.
- Excess of revenues over expenditures was \$174,913 for December and excess of revenues over expenditures was \$832,259 for the year compared to an excess of revenues over expenditures of about \$704,967 as of December 2021, reflecting the increase in revenues in the period this year as compared last years.

Ms. Watkins noted some of the revenues are based on estimated accruals, once all funds are received the updated December financials will be emailed to all members of council and updated on the Town's website.

Ms. Watkins updated council on the status of the jury trials.

- **Town Attorney**

None.

- **Zoning Administrator**

- Code Enforcement Summary

Zoning Administrator Newman summarized the code enforcement summary between December 13th to January 24th.

8. Ordinances for Second Reading:

Town Administrator Cronin noted Ordinance 2022-08 has been delayed to coincide with the Dominion Energy Agreement Ordinance.

9. Ordinances for First Reading:

None.

10. Other Action Items:

- Town Council Statement of Support for the Seabrook Island Birders and the Shorebird Steward Program

Councilwoman summarized the statement of support for the Seabrook Island Birders and the Shorebird Steward Program for 2023.

Councilwoman Finke moved to adopt the Town Council Statement of Support for the Seabrook Island Birders and the Shorebird Steward Program; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The Town Council Statement of Support for the Seabrook Island Birders and the Shorebird Steward Program.

11. Items for Information or Discussion:

None.

12. Citizen Comments:

Annie Smith-Jones, find address, inquired about the executive session with the Town Attorney regarding the appointments of the Seabrook Island Utility Commission and when it will be publicized.

13. Council Comments:

None.

14. Adjournment

Councilwoman Finke moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 PM.

Date: January 24, 2023

Prepared by: *Katharine E. Watkins*
Town Clerk/Treasurer