

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND
Town Council Meeting of May 28, 2019

MINUTES

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Pro Tem Gregg called the May 28, 2019, Town Council meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Councilmembers Crane, Finke and Wells, Town Clerk Allbritton and Town Administrator Cronin attended the meeting. The meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act were met.

Minutes:

The Town Council minutes of April 23, 2019, were unanimously approved as written.

Financials: Mayor Pro Tem Gregg reported that the total fund balance for the period ending April 30, 2019, was \$4,912,810.71, about \$6,000 more than the same period in 2018 and about \$500,000 more than the same period in 2017. Unrestricted Revenue for April totaled \$104,803.49 or 26% of the 2019 annual budget. Expenditures for April totaled \$53,359.47 or 22% of the 2019 annual budget. For the month of April, excess of revenues over expenditures was \$51,444.02. For the year to date, revenues have exceeded expenditures by \$74,429.58, compared to \$200,189.29 for the same period in 2018. The reduced excess in year over year is primarily due to expenditures for the roadway project.

Citizens/Guests Presentations, Comments: None

Reports of Standing Committees, Commissions, Boards:

Public Safety/Club Long Range Planning Committee – Councilman Gregg

Long Range Planning Committee – The Club's Long Range Planning Committee did not meet in May and their next meeting has not been scheduled.

Public Safety Committee – The Town's Public Safety Committee met on May 13, 2019. Members of the Committee were provided the 2019 update of the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Plan. The Committee also considered a memorandum recommending renewal of the Town's existing contract for debris monitoring services. The Committee began consideration of potential development of a community-wide debris management plan with reference to an EPA planning guide. The Committee also reviewed a proposed checklist for possible inclusion in the Emergency Plan that would serve as a reference for organizations under conditions when staff members with emergency response roles are not available. The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for June 17.

Disaster Recovery Council – The Disaster Recovery Council will hold half-day training and exercise sessions on June 4 and 5 using a hurricane scenario. The Town exercise will engage with the County hurricane exercise on June 5. The DRC held a planning session for the June training and exercise sessions on May 16.

Disaster Awareness Day – Disaster Awareness Day will be held on June 14 at the Seabrook Island Club. The program of emergency preparedness topics will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. followed by lunch and exhibitor visitation. A grand prize drawing will be held after lunch.

Motion to Approve Contract with Rostan Solutions for Debris Monitoring Services – In 2014, the Town entered into an agreement with Rostan Solutions for debris monitoring services. The debris monitoring service would be required in order for the Town to get any reimbursement from FEMA. The initial term of the contract was three years, beginning September 3, 2014, and it provided for two renewal terms of two years each. The agreement was renewed effective September 3, 2017, and it will expire on September 2, 2019. The agreement can be renewed by the Town for an additional two years by giving notice within ninety days of the expiration date. The Public Safety Committee has recommended renewal of the contract. Councilman Crane made a motion to renew the agreement with Rostan Solutions for a two-year period beginning September 3, 2019, and for the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the Town. Councilman Wells seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Public Relations/Communications – Councilman Crane

Development Standards Ordinance (DSO) Update – Councilman Crane reported that the DSO was last reviewed in February 2011 and a review and revision is long overdue. This project is occurring at a time when the Town’s Comprehensive Plan is being updated and the DSO is the primary tool for implementing the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Crane stated that it is simply good practice to review and update the DSO regularly to ensure that the Town’s ordinances remain current with best practices and evolving legal requirements. The DSO review and update will use input from many stakeholders, in addition to Town officials. A DSO Advisory Committee also has been established to aid Paul LeBlanc, PLB Planning Group, in the review and update process. On May 16, an orientation meeting was held for the DSO Advisory Committee to meet Paul LeBlanc and discuss the project. Councilman Crane stated that he will serve as Chair for the Committee and Gary Quigley will be Vice Chair. During Mr. LeBlanc’s visit, he also met with Town Council, the Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and representatives from key stakeholder groups. The DSO project is estimated to take at least 12 to 18 months to complete.

Special Projects/Beach Administration – Councilman Wells

Update on Dolphin Education Program for 2019 – Councilman Wells reported that representatives from the Town had a follow up meeting with ESP Associates recently and Town Administrator Cronin will report on that meeting and give an update on beach signage and buoys.

Community and Government Relations - Councilmember Finke

Councilmember Finke reported that Council had reviewed the first draft of the plastics ban ordinance at the Ways & Means Committee meeting and hoped the revised ordinance would have first reading at the June Town Council meeting.

Ways & Means – No Report

Planning Commission – No Report

Board of Zoning Appeals – No Report

Reports of Ad Hoc Committees:

Accommodations Tax Advisory – No Report

Reports of Town Officers:

Mayor Pro Tem –

Mayor Pro Tem Gregg reported that, at the February Town Council meeting, a petition was submitted to the Town requesting changes to the Town’s ordinance regulating periods and locations when dogs are permitted to be off lead on the beach. The Town has reached out to organizations it recognizes as having an interest in the proposed changes to allow them to be heard on the matter. At the April Ways & Means meeting, Melissa Chaplin, representing U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, made a presentation concerning the importance of the beach habitat for certain shorebirds (including piping plovers and red knots) and for sea turtles. Ms. Chaplin noted the proximity of the designated off-lead area of the beach to habitat for shorebirds and the potential for increased disturbance of shorebirds by the presence of off-lead dogs from any increase of the period (November through April) of unrestricted hours. Ms. Chaplin recommended that the off-lead area be relocated to be between boardwalk #1 and boardwalk #8. At the May Ways & Means meeting, Nancy Brown and Ed Konrad, representing the Seabrook Island Birders, made a presentation concerning shorebirds and their presence on Seabrook Island. Particular attention of their presentation was given to piping plovers and red knots. Mr. Konrad echoed the concern of proximity of the designated off-lead area to the critical habitat end of the beach and the recommendation for relocation of the designated off-lead area with the addition of a “buffer” between the designated off-lead area and the critical habitat area. Mr. Konrad also expressed support for maintaining the current breakdown of six month periods of unrestricted off-lead hours and restricted off-lead hours.

Town Administrator/Zoning Administrator- Joe Cronin

Comprehensive Plan Adoption Schedule – Town Administrator Cronin reported that, on May 1, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution recommending the draft of the Comprehensive Plan to Town Council. On May 17, Council held a workshop to review the draft of the Plan as well as public comments. Council gave Dan Frazier, from the Charleston County Planning Department, extensive comments and he will have the draft with changes back to Council by June 11 for their final review. First reading of the ordinance will be held at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, June 25, and second reading and public hearing on Tuesday, July 23. The public hearing will be advertised 30 days in advance.

Beach Patrol Update – Town Administrator Cronin reported that the beach patrol currently has daily coverage using two vehicles and a total of four personnel. The beach patrol has issued 30 written warnings but has not issued any citations. There have been 34 leash law violations, with 3 being in the critical area. The beach patrol has participated in 2 boat assists and has rescued 4 kayakers who needed assistance. Other statistics on the beach patrol report and past reports can be viewed on the Town's website.

Beach Signage Update – Town Administrator Cronin stated that the Town had designated \$10,000 in their 2019 budget to be spent on replacing signage on the beach. This project has been put on hold in case changes are made pertaining to the designated area or leash requirements for dogs. Three buoys have been purchased and two will be placed where the designated area begins and one where the critical area begins. One of the beach signs has already been moved from the dune area down into the beach area.

ESP Associates Update – Town Administrator Cronin reported that he and other Town representatives met with ESP Associates recently to get an update on the Town Hall/Seabrook Island Road ponding issues. ESP also wanted to discuss the Town's funding levels and funding commitments so that they could come up with recommendations that would fit into the Town's budget. ESP has finished the work on the Town Hall area that is necessary to determine the locations where water is ponding and what can be done to move the water safely and efficiently. ESP is also surveying and doing modeling work for the Seabrook Island Road area that should be completed in about 2 to 3 months. In the meantime, they will be coming up with some preliminary improvements to the Town Hall property; but, when the roadway work is completed, they will be looking at major infrastructure improvements – the impact of raising the right of way, work on culverts, ditches, etc. and also some low impact design alternatives. Town Administrator Cronin added that, later this summer or early fall, we should have some idea of specific improvements ESP will recommend and their costs.

Request to Authorize the Sale of a Surplus 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe to the Highest Bidder – Town Administrator Cronin reported that the 2019 Chevrolet Colorado was delivered to Town Hall the previous week and that the 2019 Chevy Tahoe will be delivered Wednesday, May 29. On April 23, Council voted to declare the Town's 2002 Tahoe as surplus property and an invitation to bid was run in the Post & Courier, Facebook, Twitter, etc. on May 6 with bids closing on May 24 at 2:00 p.m. The two bids that were received were opened by the Town Administrator shortly after bidding closed. The Town Administrator recommended sale of the 2002 Tahoe to the highest responsive bidder, Joshua Kennedy with a bid of \$1,075, and if he does not move forward with the purchase, he would move to the next bidder. Councilman Wells made a motion to authorize the sale of the 2002 to the highest responsive bidder. Councilman Crane seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Councilmember Finke asked when the Town would be purchasing the garbage cans for the beach. Town Administrator Cronin stated that he had spoken with Tom Strehle about the best approach for installation. Pending delivery, the garbage cans, probably 3 this year, should be installed in the next couple of weeks. The Town Administrator stated that he would be visiting the site to make sure they are installed in the best locations. Since the beach patrol will be responsible for emptying them, the trash cans will probably be removed when they finish their daily service and put back out again next year.

Town Council Members – See Above

Utility Commission – Chairman Morawski reported that the Utility Commission had a positive income of just over \$29,000 for the month of April and \$21,000 for the year to date. The wastewater plant operated at about 35% of its capacity in April. Water sales are down 7.3% in April compared to the previous year. The main sewer line in front of the Club collapsed and will have to be relined. The Chairman also reported

that the audit is running a little late because the controller position of their subcontractor is vacant but he still anticipates being able to meet the June 30 deadline.

Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of: None

Ordinances for First Reading: None

Ordinances for Second Reading: None

Miscellaneous Business: None

Citizens Comments: A resident questioned what is being done about horses leaving waste behind on the beach after riders have left the beach. Town Administrator Cronin stated that he knew of one incident that happened recently and he had contacted beach patrol to make sure they are watching to see that someone is cleaning up after the horses. The Town Administrator also stated that a citation can be issued for that, just like with any other violation, if individuals do not comply. The Club has also been contacted about the issue.

Another resident asked if there was a timetable to hear from other interested parties about changes in the beach regulations regarding dogs. Mayor Pro Tem Gregg stated that he thought the Turtle Patrol would have a presentation and that the SEADOGS would probably be invited to speak; and, until we have exhausted hearing from interested parties, no action will be taken. James Dobson, an island resident, expressed an interest in having their ad hoc coalition give a presentation. Councilman Wells commented that we have at least 12 groups that are interested in “their” beach and the groups need to be able to give their thoughts and opinions before a decision is made.

Another resident asked about the progress of the curb cut for the proposed senior center. The Mayor Pro Tem stated that the developer sued the Town and the Town has been involved in mandatory mediation. The mediation has not been concluded and, at this point, the Town is continuing to engage in discussions concerning how the mediation may be resolved. There is no schedule or timetable for when that will conclude.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Date: June 25, 2019



Town Clerk