

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Budget Workshop

August 17, 2021 – 1:00 PM

Virtual



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The August 17, 2021, Town Council Budget Workshop was conducted via Zoom, and was simultaneously made available to the public via YouTube live stream and by conference call, all in keeping with practices adopted to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Mayor Gregg, Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilman Goldstein, Town Administrator Cronin, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting. Mayor Gregg called the meeting to order.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

1. FY 2022 Budget Calendar

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the upcoming FY 2022 Budget Calendar for Council.

2. Initial Revenue Projections for FY 2022

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the general, restricted, and designated fund revenue projections to Council by line item comparing the projection to the current Fiscal year and 2019-2020. The breakdown for the discussion on each fund can be found below:

- General Fund
 - Town Administrator Cronin recommended Council continue to increase the Emergency Reserve Fund and the vehicle maintenance fund, and to designate funding for the upcoming road and drainage improvement project.
 - Council discussed the timeline for the road and drainage project, the timing for the use of funds, and how the improvements are impacted by the MUSC building and the assisted living facility.
- Restricted Fund
 - Council discussed the potential use of State Accommodations Tax funds for the road and drainage improvement project as there is an increase in ATAX funds collected this year, and to start communications with Charleston County to send County ATAX funds as they have been suspended for the past two years.
- Designated Fund
 - Council clarified the use of the emergency fund, and the use of vehicles for the part time and full time Code Enforcement Officers.
 - Council further discussed the transfer of funds for the road and drainage project and the status of the site for the potential garage to be placed outside Town Hall.

3. Review and Discussion of Priorities for FY 2022 Budget

Each Council Member listed their priorities as follows:

- Councilwoman Finke
 - Continue beach patrols current level of enforcement and potentially increasing funding to enhance enforcement.
 - Continue the dolphin education program that is funded through grant to the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network.
 - Maintain the 4th of July Celebrations for the Town of Seabrook
 - Continue the Christmas Lights drive thru at Town Hall and potentially enhancing them to be more extravagant
 - Continue the Community Promotions Grant program through the Town and keep at least at the same level of funding.
 - Ensure Town Hall staff have the resources they need to do their jobs including resources for effective enforcement responsibilities.
 - Potentially hire part time staff during the busy season when business licenses and rental permits are coming due.
 - Move forward on the exterior improvements to Town Hall
 - Move forward with the road and drainage improvements to Seabrook Island Road.
- Councilwoman Fox
 - Continue beach patrols current level of enforcement
 - Maintain the 4th of July Celebrations for the Town of Seabrook
 - Continue the Christmas Lights drive thru at Town Hall and potentially enhancing them to be more extravagant
 - Increase enforcement on short term rentals
 - Move forward with the road and drainage improvements to Seabrook Island Road.
 - Continue the Community Promotions Grant program through the Town and potentially increase the level of funding based on the community's needs
 - Move forward on the Town Hall renovations (interior and exterior)
 - Look into using state ATAX funding to help fund the road and drainage improvement project.
- Councilman Goldstein
 - Continue the improvements to the inbound and outbound lanes
 - Add a line item to improve the fence as well
 - Move forward with the garage design for Town Hall as the needs of the Town continue to increase and there is more of a need.
- Mayor Gregg
 - Make a commitment to the road and drainage project with the designation of funds recommended by Town Administrator Cronin
 - Maintain the current level of beach patrol enforcement
 - Clarified for Council the contract amount for this level of enforcement will be higher than the amount budgeted in 2021
 - Continue the Community Promotions grant program through the Town at the

same level of funding.

- Would like to budget a Seabrook Island performance Charleston Symphony Orchestra
- Supports repeating the Christmas lights display as done in 2020 and supports resuming the Town Christmas open house.

Town Administrator Cronin clarified for Council that Town Hall projects from the 2021 budget (town hall renovations and additional upgrades to Council Chambers) should be complete this year, and if these projects are not completed, they would be rolled over into FY 2022. He added that some capital projects will be complete this year which will free up some funding of other projects.

Town Administrator Cronin mentioned to Council the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) has a hometown economic development grant the Town could seek to pay for increased signage and wayfinding signs along Seabrook Island Road. Members of Council expressed their support for pursuing the grant.

Town Administrator Cronin commented that under American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) and the Town will receive approximately \$928,500 to be spent on specific projects and recommended an Ad Hoc Committee be created to see how the funds would be spent within the community.

Council clarified that the projected start for the MUSC facility construction is August 2022 and the projected completion Fall 2023.

Council discussed the current beach patrol budget contract, potentially imposing a Local Hospitality Tax for Seabrook Island, and the addition of a sign or other signage for the turn lane at the traffic circle going to Seabrook Island. Town Administrator Cronin noted that the turn lane is a State road and the process for erecting a "way-finding" sign at the turn lane would require approval/permission from the State.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:31PM.

Date: August 17th, 2021

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