

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council – Joint Meeting & Work Session
September 13, 2022



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MINUTES

JOINT MEETING WITH ATAX ADVISORY BOARD

- Presentation from Explore Charleston (Charleston Area Visitors Convention Bureau)

Due to technical difficulties, the Joint Meeting with the ATAX Advisory Board started at 1:05PM.

Committee Members Present: Buck (Chair), Fagan, Pontuti, O'Rourke, Spisak, Leggett

Committee Members Absent: Schildge

Guests Present: *Explore Charleston* (Laurie Smith, Chis Campbell, Annie McEwen, Chisolm Seabrook)

The ATAX Advisory Board introduced themselves to Explore Charleston (aka Charleston Area Visitor Convention Bureau).

Ms. Smith introduced Explore Charleston and presented to the ATAX Advisory Board and Town Council what their organization is, state reporting guidelines, how they spend the 30% of State ATAX by the Town of Seabrook Island, and examples of their marketing strategy for Seabrook Island and the Charleston Area.

A discussion was had on how the attribution to each municipality was calculated in the proposed budget.

Members of the Board and Council clarified what is included in the Kiawah Island Visitor Center, where it is located on Kiawah, and how the visitor center promotes Seabrook Island as well as other communities.

A discussion was had on advertisements involving the Seabrook Island Club and how Explore Charleston has communicated with them on how to advertise those amenities through the club (i.e., equestrian center, golf, tennis, etc.).

Members of the Board and Council clarified how the data was collected for occupancy rates and average daily rates, and how the quarterly data represents Seabrook Island.

Mr. Pontuti moved to approve Explore Charleston's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the 30% of ATAX funds for Seabrook Island; Mr. Spisak seconded. All voted in favor.

The ATAX Advisory Board approved Explore Charleston's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the 30% of ATAX funds for Seabrook Island.

Ms. Fagan moved to approve Explore Charleston's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget for the 30% of ATAX funds for Seabrook Island; Mr. Spisak seconded. All voted in favor.

The ATAX Advisory Board approved Explore Charleston's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget for the 30% of ATAX funds for Seabrook Island.

WORK SESSION

Call to Order – Roll Call – Freedom of Information

Mayor Gregg called the September 13th, 2022, Town Council Work Session to order at 1:53 PM. 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.

Mayor John Gregg

- CRHMP Notification to Council

Mayor Gregg noted the 2022-2023 Update of the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is now available from the Charleston County Business Inspection Services Department.

Mayor Gregg added a copy of his memorandum of the update is included in the agenda packet and has a link to access the Update and including a summary of changes to the Plan implemented by the 2022-2023 Update.

Mayor Gregg noted notice of Council of availability of the Update is required for the Town to receive credit applied to the Town's participation in Charleston County's Community Rating System.

Town Council Members:

- **Jeri Finke**

Councilwoman Finke summarized the September 8th Environment and Wildlife Committee Meeting.

- **Patricia Fox**

Councilwoman Fox updated Council on the Town's communications since last meeting and reminded all the upcoming Charleston Symphony Orchestra performance on October 16th at the lake house.

Councilwoman Fox added that it will be the 35th anniversary of Seabrook Island and inquired if it could be advertised with the Symphony performance as a celebration.

Councilwoman Fox noted the next Community Promotions and Engagement Committee Meeting will be held on September 15th.

Councilwoman Fox summarized the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) long range planning meeting.

○ **Barry Goldstein**

Councilman Goldstein summarized the September 12th Public Works Committee Meeting.

○ **Dan Kortvelesy**

None.

Town Administrator Joe Cronin

- Review and Discussion of Beach Patrol Options for FY 2023

Town Administrator Cronin summarized a meeting had with the beach patrol service contractor, Barrier Island Ocean Rescue, along with Councilwoman Finke and Councilman Kortvelesy.

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the current services provided and reviewed various options for next year's contract and his recommendation on which option to move forward.

Council clarified Option 2 breakdown of services within the table provided specifically for the peak season.

A discussion was had on the cost increase from the current contract to the recommended option and where the funding would come from.

A discussion was had on the types of vehicles to that are included in the options and working with code enforcement to supplement the other months when beach patrol is not on the beach.

A discussion was had on what the Town provides the beach patrol contractor vs what they have.

- Review and Discussion of Draft Development Standards Ordinance (DSO) Fee Schedule

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the proposed draft ordinance for DSO Fee Schedule changes.

Council clarified was had on the basis on the construction value when calculating the fees and if the definition can be included in the ordinance.

A discussion was had on the plan review the Town does compared to Charleston County.

A discussion was had on the proposed late application fees with regards to short-term rental permits.

- Discussion of Local Accommodations Tax (1%)

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the proposed draft ordinance on imposing a Town of Seabrook Island Local Accommodation Tax of 1%.

A discussion was had on the use of funds with regards to beach patrol.

A discussion was had on how much Charleston County currently collects on the County Accommodations Tax.

Council clarified how much Charleston County would charge if the Town were to use them to collect the Local Accommodations Tax.

A discussion was had on if there is a timeframe to use the proposed funds and a timeline of when this could be implemented.

- Discussion of Proposed Amendments to the Berkeley Electric Cooperative (BEC) Franchise Agreement

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the proposed amendments to the BEC Franchise Agreement.

A discussion was had on the BEC Service Area for Seabrook Island.

A clarification was had on if the Town has on charging stations with regards to the proposed changes to the agreement.

A discussion was had on the timeline for implementation for the changes with the franchise agreement.

- Items for Discussion

Town Administrator Cronin recommended to change the Town's Budget year to mirror the State's Fiscal Year from July 1 to June 30 and summarized the proposed implementation to move to the new fiscal year. Town Administrator Cronin further summarized the pros and cons for the proposed changes.

A discussion was had on the disadvantages of the proposed changes.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:24PM.

Date: September 14, 2022

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