

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Work Session

February 8, 2022

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

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



MINUTES

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

The February 8, 2022, Town Council Work Session 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, Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting.

Mayor Gregg called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. The Town Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act had been met.

2. Mayor John Gregg

- Update from Mayors meeting with Mayor Tecklenburg concerning status of US Army Corps of Engineers perimeter protection (Charleston peninsula)

Mayor Gregg summarized the video conference of February 2, with Mayor Tecklenburg, mayors of other local municipalities and a representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”). Mayor Tecklenburg provided information concerning the status of the USACE storm risk management study begun in 2018 for which a final report is expected to be delivered to Congress this year. In April 2020, a draft report identified several risk reduction measures including a perimeter storm surge wall, pump stations and nonstructural measures. The currently estimated project cost is \$1.1B, of which 65% will be federally funded. Information concerning the proposed risk reduction measures is available at:

<https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Charleston-Peninsula-Study/>

- Update from meeting with Representative Spencer Wetmore.

Mayor Gregg summarized a meeting on January 28, with representatives of the Towns of Kiawah and Seabrook met with State Representative Spencer Wetmore. Representative Wetmore acknowledged interest of the Towns in potential for distributions from the recently enacted Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and indicated that while the State has identified uses for the funds by the State it has not defined a path for distributions to municipalities of any amounts the State will

receive. She commented in respect of the status of South Carolina House Bill 4547 directed to prohibiting municipalities and other local governments from enacting regulations that prohibit rental of residential dwelling to short-term guests. Representative Wetmore noted that the bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee on which she serves. Representative Wetmore acknowledged interests of local governments in being free to regulate short-term rentals.

Council clarified whether the Federal infrastructure funds were going to be distributed to local governments by the State.

Town Administrator Cronin commented that Representative Wetmore indicated it was not likely that any major legislation would be enacted during the current term of the State legislature.

3. Town Council Members:

- **Jeri Finke**

Councilwoman Finke reminded members that the Environment and Wildlife Committee will meet on February 10th at 1:00PM.

Councilwoman Finke also updated Council on the next STR ad hoc committee meeting with more stake holders on Friday.

Councilwoman Finke discussed with Council and Town Administrator Cronin, how information is disseminated to the public, how the Town can improve on this distribution, and where the information from the Town is available.

Council discussed the weekly “e-Blast” of the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) and working with the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee to get the Town information out as well.

Council discussed a brochure with SIPOA on what each entity is responsible for working with the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee.

- **Patricia Fox**

Councilwoman Fox summarized the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee meeting on January 17th and the communications from the Town on the Seabrooker and Tidelines. Councilwoman Fox noted the next meeting for the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee will be on February 17th.

Councilwoman discussed potentially changing the Town’s form of government.

- **Barry Goldstein**

Councilman Goldstein summarized the Public Works Committee meeting of February 7th and noted the next meeting will be held on the first Monday at 12:00PM.

Councilman Goldstein updated Council on recent discussions on raising Seabrook Island Road and different options with costs for Council to report during the March meeting.

Council discussed when the alternatives would be presented to Council in March and if the Public Works Committee would have a recommendation for Council.

Council discussed obtaining a quote from an architect for the garage at Town Hall and the next steps in the process.

Council clarified that the quote from the architect would address both concept and construction for the building design.

Council discussed potentially engaging using some of the retired professionals on the island who may volunteer their time as an aid to the Town in reviewing proposals for the contemplated garage project.

- **Dan Kortvelesy**

Councilman Kortvelesy summarized the upcoming Public Safety Committee on February 15th and scheduled a Disaster Recovery Council meeting on March 10th with another exercise in May.

Council discussed the logistics for the Disaster Recovery Meeting via zoom or in person with regards to COVID restrictions.

Town Administrator Cronin noted that it has been a couple of years since the last Disaster Awareness Day which the Disaster Recovery Council has been a part of, and when would this be scheduled with the Town of Kiawah.

4. **Town Administrator Joe Cronin**

- ② **Action Items for February 22, 2022 meeting:**

- o **Ord. 2022-01:** An ordinance amending the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 2, Administration; so as to update and modify the general administrative policies and procedures of the town

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the edits made to Chapter 2, Administration of the Town Code.

- ② **Other Items:**

- o Buildings & Grounds Manager Update

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the interviews that were conducted throughout the week and will schedule the 2 finalist interviews with the Mayor for next week and have an offer by the end of next week to 10 days. He added that this position would anticipate beginning within 4 to 6 weeks.

- o **Code Enforcement**

Town Administrator Cronin noted that he and Zoning Administrator Newman will have an updated job description of the part time Code Enforcement Officers to be posted soon.

- o DSO Update

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the next steps of the DSO after the Planning Commission sends their recommendations to Council.

5. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Date: February 11, 2022

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