

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND
Town Council Meeting of October 22, 2019

MINUTES

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Pro Tem Gregg called the October 22, 2019, Town Council meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Councilmen 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 Budget Workshop Minutes of September 12, 2019, the Town Council Minutes of September 24, 2019, and the Ways & Means Committee Minutes of October 15, 2019, were all unanimously approved as written.

Financials: Mayor Pro Tem Gregg reported that the total fund balance for the period ending September 30, 2019, was \$4,954,525.98, about \$30,500 less than the balance for the same period in 2018 and about \$340,000 more than for the same period in 2017. Unrestricted revenue for September totaled \$47,715.38 and unrestricted revenue for the year, excluding use of transfers from the 2018 year-end general fund balance, was \$1,115,960.80, representing about 58% of the 2019 annual budget. Expenditures for September totaled \$80,630.51 and expenditures for the year totaled \$1,928,775 representing about 48% of the 2019 annual budget. Excess of expenditures over revenues was \$32,915.13 for the month. When transfers from the 2018 year-end general fund balances are excluded, year to date excess of revenues over expenditure was about \$187,699.84 compared to \$376,102.71 for the same period in 2018. The reduced excess for the period year-over-year is primarily attributable to expenditures for the roadway project in 2019.

Citizens/Guests Presentations, Comments: None

Reports of Standing Committees, Commissions, Boards:

Public Safety/Club Long Range Planning Committee – Councilman Gregg

Public Safety Committee – Mayor Pro Tem Gregg reported that, at the October 21, 2019, Public Safety Committee meeting, he had introduced new committee members and announced that long-time member, Rob Savin, had announced his resignation from the Committee. Sharon Welch, representing Bohicket Marina, attended the meeting. The Committee reviewed the origins of the Disaster Recovery Council Task Force, its composition and purpose. The Committee was informed of a recent demonstration of a gas-powered LSV to members of SIPOA’s Safety and Security Committee. Finally, the Committee reviewed the report from the Disaster Recovery Council Hurricane Dorian After Action review.

Disaster Recovery Council – The Disaster Recovery Council held an “after action review” session for Hurricane Dorian response on Friday, September 27. A report from that session, containing action items for improvement of hurricane response, has been distributed to representatives of the DRC member organizations. The report was also distributed to the Public Safety Committee for their review. The DRC’s next meeting is expected to be a planning session for the next DRC training and exercise sessions that are typically held in January. DRC organizations have identified representatives to the DRC Task Force that was established to address challenges with emergency response in which a disaster event occurs without warning and member organization personnel, who are responsible for carrying out response actions, are cut off from the island and not able to carry out their responsibilities.

Public Relations/Communications – Councilman Crane commented that Rob Savin will be missed on the Public Safety Committee. Councilman Crane reported that an island-wide HAM radio test had been held recently. He also reported that the Development Standards Ordinance Advisory Committee had held meetings on October 16 and 17 and reviewed draft articles from the DSO. Another meeting of the committee will be held the week of November 18.

Special Projects/Beach Administration – Councilman Wells stated that the October Town Council meeting was his last council meeting. Councilman Wells also mentioned several of his “pet” projects and thanked Council for all their hard work and especially Joe, the Town Administrator. Mayor Pro Tem Gregg agreed with Councilman Wells in his praise for the Town Administrator.

Community and Government Relations - Councilmember Finke reported that the Town had paid for the last printing of the Seabrook Island Birder brochure since two of the panels of the brochure contain the Town’s rules pertaining to dogs on the beach. The group has now revised their brochure to reflect the beach rules recently adopted by Town Council. Previously, these brochures had been given to rental agencies to be included in visitor rental packets; but, at the recommendation of the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association, the brochures will be given out to visitors as they come through the security gate. The number of brochures needed is estimated to rise from 5,000 to 15,000 since more visitors will be reached. Councilmember Finke said that she had hoped to have an estimate for the cost of printing the 15,000 brochures but has not gotten it yet. Councilmember Finke made a motion for the Town to fund an amount, not to exceed \$1,800, for the cost to print the Seabrook Island Birder brochures. Councilman Crane seconded the motion. The Town Administrator stated that the printing cost could be paid from the 2019 budget and taken from the Contingency line item. Councilmember Finke amended her motion to reflect this change – The Town will fund an amount not to exceed \$1,800 for the cost to print the Seabrook Island Birder brochures and this amount will be paid from the 2019 budget and charged to the Contingency line item. The vote to approve was unanimous.

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 –

- **Dutch Dialog Charleston** – Mayor Pro Tem Gregg reported that, at the October Ways and Means Meeting, the Mayor commented on the final report of the “Dutch Dialogues Charleston”, noting that the report identified specific risks to Johns Island and offered recommendations to address those risks. Among those, he noted the recommendation for creation of a watershed master plan for the area from River Road and Maybank Highway to the islands of Kiawah and Seabrook. The Mayor Pro Tem added that the Johns Island Task Force also took note of the report and, at its meeting on October 9, expressed support for bringing the findings into discussions with Charleston County in connection with efforts of the Task Force to strengthen the Urban Growth Boundary.
- **Mary Whyte Day Proclamation** – The Mayor Pro Tem stated that fifty paintings by Mary Whyte, depicting veterans from the fifty states, are featured in an exhibition at the City Gallery from October 25 through December 22. A reception will be held on November 1 at 3:00 p.m. at the Seabrook Island Club in recognition of both – Mary’s contributions to the community and the celebration of veterans through her paintings. In connection with that event, it is proposed to proclaim November 1 as Mary Whyte Day in the Town of Seabrook Island. The proposed proclamation has been provided in Town Council packets. Mayor Pro Tem Gregg moved to approve the Proclamation as provided to Council. Councilman Crane seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Town Administrator/Zoning Administrator- Joe Cronin

Beach Patrol Year End Report – Town Administrator Cronin reported that the beach patrol had ended their season for 2019 at the end of September. During this season, they issued 328 warnings, 3 citations and had 2 calls to the Charleston County Sheriff’s Department. There were 103 leash law violations and about 2/3 of those were issued to visitors to Seabrook Island. The entire beach patrol report can be found

on the Town's website. The Town is currently working on the last one-year renewal provided for in the current beach patrol contract.

Christmas Drop-In – The Town's annual Christmas drop-in will be held on Thursday, December 12, from noon to 2:00 p.m. and the Town will once again participate in Toys for Tots.

Audit RFP Update – The Town Administrator reported that the Town had gotten five proposals as a result of their audit RFP. The Audit Review Panel has selected three companies that will be interviewed – Mauldin & Jenkins, Green Finney and Martin Smith & Company. These companies will be interviewed with a selection being made promptly so that the company selected can begin with the 2019 audit.

Update on Beach Rules for Pets – Town Administrator Cronin reported that Council adopted the ordinance changing beach rules for pets on September 24. The effective date of the ordinance was delayed for 30 days, which would make it effective beginning Thursday, October 24. The beach rules that were adopted are on the website, the Town's social media accounts and Tidelines has publicized the beach rules. The Town Administrator reported that he has information to place on the current signs at the boardwalks and those should be up by the effective date. A couple of "designated area" signs will be coming down and the two restricted area buoys will be moved up near boardwalk 1 and probably two more buoys will be purchased.

Update on 800 MHz Radio Replacement – The Town Administrator stated that the Town's current 800 MHz radios are no longer being supported by Motorola and replacing the Town's radios was included in the 2019 budget. The amount budgeted for the radios was \$17,500, and the quote for 6 radios for the Town (one for each councilmember and one for the Town Administrator) and 1 for the Utility Commission came in at \$15,700.

Town Council Members – See Above

Utility Commission – Commissioner Vancini reported that the Commission had received impact fees in the month of September from Kiawah Development Partners in the amount of \$58,000; and, even with the cost of leasing generators and other expenses during Hurricane Dorian, the Commission had a net income for September of \$50,000 and cash flow, after debt service and capital outlays, of \$44,000. For the year to date through September, the net income was \$148,000 and the net cash flow was \$60,000. At the Utility Commission's last meeting, the President of the Property Owners Association asked the Utility Commission to add a hot line for residents to use for serious water emergencies. Currently, emergency after hours calls go to the gate house. Commissioner Vancini stated that, as a result of this request, the Commission is looking into a third party that could manage a hot line. Commissioner Vancini also stated that Glaser & Company presented the Commission with their 2018 audit at their September meeting.

Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of: None

Ordinances for First Reading: None

Ordinances for Second Reading:

- **Ordinance 2019-11:** An ordinance to adopt a budget for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2020, and ending December 31, 2020. Town Administrator Cronin stated that, when Ordinance 2019-11 had first reading in September, the total combined budget from all funds was \$2,024,000, but there are item in the 2019 budget that he is recommending be carried over into the 2020 budget and the total budget from all funds would be \$2,084,000. The General Fund budget would increase from \$1,331,500 to 1,391,500 with a net increase of \$60,00. The items that would carry over into next year, for a total of \$60,000, are:
 - Exterior Painting of Town Hall - \$35,000
 - Window Coverings and Draperies - \$5,000
 - Concrete Pad and Bike Rack at Town Hall - \$5,000
 - Production and Installation of New Signage at Town Hall & Seabrook Island Road – Carryover of \$15,000 from 2019 Budget to be added to the 2020 Budget of \$35,000 for a total of \$50,000

Councilman Crane made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-11, with the amendments as proposed by the Town Administrator, on second reading. Councilman Wells seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Citizens Comments:

Joanne Fagan, a Seabrook Island resident, commented that the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association is sending a letter in support of the Certificate of Need for the MUSC facility that is being proposed for Seabrook Island Road, in the former Lulu's location, and wondered about Town Council's position on the facility. Mayor Pro Tem Gregg stated that the Mayor had prepared, signed and submitted a letter in support of the Certificate of Need for the proposed MUSC walk-in clinic. The resident asked if recommendations would be made to try to alleviate problems dealing with traffic as had been done with the senior living facility. Mayor Pro Tem said the facility is not a certainty until the Certificate of Need process is completed, especially since competitors would be allowed to weigh in with their opinion and one of their competitors (Roper St. Francis) has a facility at FreshFields Village. He added that, if MUSC needed to alter the encroachment as it is now, they will have to come to the Town's Planning Commission to get any changes to the encroachment approved and the Planning Commission would set forth conditions as would be necessary in connection with that encroachment. The MUSC site is within the Town limits and the Town would have far more control over it than the senior living facility.

Frank Stare, a resident of Seabrook Island, had asked the Seabrook Island Utility Commission recently to look at the landscaping around a shed that houses some of their equipment on Old Drake Drive. After the last several hurricanes, Mr. Stare said he felt that work needed to be done to this landscaping. Commissioner Vancini replied that this had been discussed at the Utility Commission's last meeting and Mr. Stare should be getting a response from them. Councilman Wells suggested that Mr. Stare might find out if some of the landscaping is located on the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association's easement.

Gina Good, a Town resident, asked who should be contacted if there was an issue on the beach. Mayor Pro Tem said that the Town's Code Enforcement Officer would be the only person that could do enforcement on the beach since the beach patrol season is over until the spring of 2020. In the meantime, he suggested that Town Hall be called with any information concerning beach violations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



Date: November 19, 2019

Town Clerk

