

Town of Seabrook Island
Ways and Means Committee Meeting
January 15, 2019
2:30 P.M.

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Ciancio called the meeting to order. Council members Gregg, Crane, Finke and Wells, Town Clerk Allbritton and Town Administrator Cronin attended the meeting. Mayor Ciancio led the pledge of allegiance and confirmed that the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Mayor Ciancio reported on a meeting with Jim Armstrong, Deputy Administrator of Charleston County, together with Stephen Thigpen, Transportation Development Director, County Council member Jenny Honeycutt and members of the County staff regarding the US 17 Main Road Intersection Improvement Project.

Mr. Armstrong noted that, for permitting purposes and in an effort to expedite the process, last May the County had divided and prioritized the project into three segments: (A) Bees Ferry to Chisholm Road, (B) Chisholm Road to Maybank and (C) Maybank to Betsy Kerrison. The County had established Segment A as its first priority, Segment C as its second priority, and Segment B as its third priority.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for Segment A, the County is currently considering as many as ten different alternatives, one of which is the so-called fly-over. Each alternative proposes a different approach to solving the traffic problem at Main and 17. The ten alternatives will go through a screening process after which the county will narrow the alternatives to four or five to take to the public this spring. A final alternative will be chosen this summer in consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers. The County also has FEMA grant money to address flooding issues on Main and 17.

The County is in the process of negotiating a contract for design services with respect to Segment C. The NEPA process for this segment will begin as soon as the contract is signed. The alternatives the County will consider for this segment are: adding two additional lanes to Bohicket Road, adding two additional lanes to River Road and construction of a new cross-island highway known as the Cross Island Parkway. The County is waiting to see what happens with the I-526 extension before it decides what to do with segment B.

The Mayor said that, from his perspective, the important piece of information that came out of the meeting was that the Cross Island Parkway will be considered as one of the three alternatives for Segment C. County Council had previously deferred consideration of that concept, requiring that BCD COG put the concept on its priority list for funding. The County noted that SCDOT was in the process of developing interim safety measures for Bohicket Road. The Mayor said he would follow up on the latter.

The Mayor noted that the function of Council is to adopt a strategic view of the future it wishes to achieve and make plans and policies which are designed to achieve these goals and that he was concerned that the current structure and allocation of Council responsibilities did not lend themselves to the most efficient and effective method of achieving these objectives. He further thought it appropriate that Council, on a periodic basis, review the way Council is structured. This is particularly important in a Town like ours where, because of the limited size of our staff, we ask our council

members to undertake more substantive roles than might otherwise be the case. The Mayor stated that he would appoint a committee at the January Town Council meeting to begin analyzing the structure and allocation of council responsibilities.

Councilwoman Finke suggested that the Town join the number of South Carolina communities banning single use plastic carryout bags and straws. She noted that a number of communities had passed ordinances prohibiting grocery and convenience stores, restaurants and other retail establishments from using plastic bags and straws. She noted that the goal behind such measures was to improve the environment, ocean and waterways. The Mayor asked Councilwoman Finke to provide council members with additional information addressing specifically what other communities would do and reach out to stakeholders such as the Seabrook Island Club and Bohicket Marina for input.

Councilman Gregg reported on the status of the Town's request for public assistance for Hurricane Florence. He noted that FEMA had obligated \$21,443 as its share of the recovery. He also noted that it was unclear whether the State of South Carolina would reimburse the Town for the State's share of the loss. He also noted that on January 9th he had accompanied the SC DHEC site inspector on the inspection of the Town's two debris removal sites. He noted that the site on the Goodwin property contained debris which needed to be cleared to make space for debris storage and reduction, and a representative of the Town of Kiawah Island, with whom the Town shared the leased space, was to contact the owner of the property to address the matter.

Councilman Gregg noted that the Public Safety Committee had noted a need to identify individuals within the community who had skills and expertise which would be helpful in the event of an emergency. The Committee was looking into the idea of having residents and property owners sign up on the Town's website but was concerned about the issue of potential liability which may accrue to the Town. The Mayor suggested that the Town Attorney could be contacted regarding this issue.

Councilman Wells reported that the two storm water boxes on either side of the marina entrance were to be repaired with reinforced steel bars by the end of the month. He also said that to assist the Dolphin volunteer program the Town had installed a storage box on the beach to store chairs, umbrellas and related equipment for use by the program volunteers. He indicated that group's intent was to cut back on the number of volunteer hours by one-half, which would require soliciting additional volunteers to make up the time.

Town Administrator Cronin reported that Charleston County had been requested by FEMA to conduct an examination of "repetitive loss properties" on Seabrook Island. Repetitive loss properties are those for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program within any rolling ten-year period since 1978. He noted that, in order for the County to conduct such examination, it would require consent from the Town; and, if the Town were to participate in the process, it would be considered part of the Town's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) flood-plain management (for which Town residents receive a reduction of premiums of FEMA flood insurance) and would result in a substantial award of points to the Town in respect of the CRS. He said that the County would not force property owners to make any of the recommended changes and that there may be federal funds to support the mitigation work. The Mayor will review the letter which will be sent to property owners before it is sent.

The Town Administrator provided an update of the AirMedCare Network contract and said that all definitions of covered individuals had been agreed but for the definition of the term "immediate

family member". The Town had submitted suggested language for the definition to AirMedCare for review by its corporate counsel but had not received any response back. AirMedCare has said that notwithstanding, the contract would be continued on its present terms for an interim grace period.

The Town Administrator said that the agreement with Island Beach Services had been approved and that the Town would shortly swear in a number of its employees as Code Enforcement Officers.

The Town Administrator reported that the new recording system for the council chambers was now on line and that audio of meetings could be recorded in MP3 format. He cautioned council members that the new system was very sensitive and could pick up whispered statements.

The Town Administrator noted that the Town's Jeep Wrangler continued to have mechanical problems. It was towed to a repair shop which reported that it would require both a new battery and starter just to get it started in order to diagnosis the remaining problems; and that, in light of the operating history of the vehicle, the Mayor had decided the best course of action would be to sell the vehicle. He noted that the Town's ordinance did not specifically provide for disposition of property above \$500 in value, but that he would ask Council to declare the vehicle to be surplus property and advertise the vehicle for public sale.

The Town Administrator reviewed the two proposals from ESP Associates dated January 11, 2019, which were proposed to address the ponding issues on Seabrook Island Road. The first would address the six-acre parcel on which the Town Hall is located and would include surveying services and civil engineering services including design and governmental permitting and would address both the causes and remediation of the ponding issues for proposed fees in the amount of \$48,450. The second proposal was for the one-mile portion of Seabrook Island Road located between the POA gatehouse and the "traffic circle" and would not offer a specific solution for flooding and ponding, but rather constitute a preliminary drainage evaluation, improvement evaluations and recommendations of alternative solutions for the Town to consider. ESP deliverables for this alternative would include a technical memorandum with schematic improvement recommendations, supporting information and attendance at coordination meetings. ESP's fees for this proposal were in the amount of \$33,500.

The Town Administrator reported that the request for proposal for solicitation of bids for landscaping services was ninety-five percent completed and should be in a position for the Mayor to review by the end of January. The Mayor asked about the status of the Town's effort to retain new auditors. The Town Administrator reported that the RFP was not particularly expansive and that we should be able to begin interviews by the end of February.

The Town Administrator reported concerning an ordinance to amend Section 2-67(a) of the Town's Municipal Code which sets forth the circumstances under which the date of regularly scheduled meetings are to be changed to accommodate State and Federal holidays, noting in particular that the current provision of Town Code is not observed for meetings in January and May which fall during the same week as the days honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and Memorial Day respectively. The Town Administrator recommended that Council modify the language of Section 2-67(a) as required to address the inconsistent treatment of meeting dates relative to holidays.

The Town Administrator advised council that two new construction projects, one on Marsh Gate, issued in August of 2017, and the second on Jenkins Point, issued in February of 2016 had failed both to be completed within the one-year requirement of our ordinance and to timely request an

extension of the permit. He noted that the Town's ordinance required that extensions beyond this period would require the approval of Town Council and that he would be bringing both requests before Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Upon conclusion of the Town Administrator's comments, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Wells, seconded by Councilman Crane and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.



Date: February 26, 2019

Town Clerk