

Town of Seabrook Island  
Ways and Means Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2019  
2:30 P.M.

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Ciancio called the meeting to order. The Mayor confirmed that the agenda for the meeting had been properly posted and the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act otherwise complied with. Council members Gregg, Crane, Finke and Wells and Town Administrator Cronin attended the meeting.

Mayor Ciancio noted that several months ago a petition had been submitted to council which requested a number of changes to the Town's ordinance as it relates to dogs on the beach. He reminded council members that portions of the beach had been designated as a critical habitat for both the wintering piping plover and the loggerhead turtle and that it was also home to the red knot which was federally protected. Mayor Ciancio reminded council that, when the POA wanted to relocate Cap'n Sams Inlet, a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers was required. Under the Endangered Species Act, because of the presence of the wintering piping plover, loggerhead turtle and red knot, the Army Corp was required to consult with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. The Mayor introduced Melissa Chaplin, an endangered species biologist with USF&W, and said that he had asked Ms. Chaplin to provide council with background information to allow it to make a decision on the matters raised in the petition. Ms. Chaplin reviewed the relevant sections of the Endangered Species Act and the designation of critical habitats on Seabrook Island. She reviewed the range of both the piping plover and red knot and the annual cycles of the listed species. She noted that the less restrictive "winter months" in the ordinance overlapped the majority of time the piping plover and red knot were on Seabrook Island, potentially exposing the birds to more disturbance from dogs, and that the location of the "restricted area" was of concern because it is adjacent to and included the critical habitat area. Ms. Chaplin also observed that the "summer months" of the town's ordinance overlapped with the shorebird breeding season and fall migration and the loggerhead turtle nesting season and said that she would not object to increased hours and areas as long as the "designated area" was moved to between boardwalks 1 and 8. Ms. Chaplin responded to a number of questions from council and citizens in attendance.

The Mayor reviewed the names of the eight (8) individuals he intended to nominate to the advisory committee which will assist the consultant the Town had retained to revise the Development Standards Ordinance. He stated that he would submit the names for approval at the next council meeting.

The letter the Mayor had sent to Senator Campsen and Representative McCoy objecting to Senate Bill S394, which would limit the home rule powers of municipalities to regulate single use plastic containers designed for transporting food and beverages from or at a food retail facility, was distributed to council. He noted that, while it did not appear that there remains enough time for the legislature to act on the bill this year, it remains on the legislative agenda for next year. The Mayor noted that he had instructed the Town Attorney to prepare an ordinance banning single use plastic containers for consideration by council at its May or June meeting. Councilwoman Finke said that she had met with a representative of the Marina Merchants Association regarding the plastics ban and that he said he would look into the matter and get back to her.

The Mayor discussed his meeting with a resident of Bay Point Villas and the need for an informational sign on Seabrook Island Road, in the direction of the gate, suggesting that the speed limit would be reduced ahead. The Town Administrator noted that he had been approached by the POA requesting permission to install a reduced speed ahead sign and that he would meet with the Town's traffic consultant to discuss the specifications and placement of such a sign.

Clarissa Childs, the Executive Director of the South Carolina Women's Open, reviewed for council the background of the tournament which will be held on Seabrook Island between August 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. She noted that last year the tournament had drawn sixty-nine (69) players from eleven (11) states and a number of foreign countries. Participants included both senior amateur and professional players. She hoped that participation would be even greater this year. Ms. Childs thanked the Town for its financial support of the tournament and answered questions from council.

Councilman Crane reported that the work he and the Town Administrator had conducted on the Town's website would be reviewed by the Town Administrator.

Councilwoman Finke described current legislation regarding off shore drilling that had been introduced both at the state and federal level. The Mayor said that he would invite Representative McCoy to address council on both the preemptive legislation regarding single use plastic containers and off shore drilling.

Councilman Gregg reported on the Disaster Recovery Council report review held the previous Friday and said that the DRC would conduct training and exercise sessions in coordination with Charleston County the first week in June.

Town Administrator Cronin reviewed features of the Town's new website which went live on April 5<sup>th</sup>. He also updated council on the potential sale of the Town's 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe and said that he would request council to declare the vehicle surplus during the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Town Administrator Cronin updated council on the beach buoy and signage replacement and answered questions from council. Town Administrator Cronin then reminded council that the Town had failed to provide timely notice of renewal of its existing on-call agreement for debris monitoring services in 2017 but that the agreement was retroactively renewed in 2018. In order to avoid a similar issue this year, he stated that the Public Safety Committee would meet in May and, if it recommended renewal, the agreement would be presented to council for renewal at its May meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Date: April 23, 2019



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Town Clerk