

Town of Seabrook Island
Ways and Means Committee Meeting
July 17, 2018
2:30 P.M.

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Ciancio called the meeting to order. Council members Crane, Gregg, 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 South Carolina Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Mayor Ciancio noted that the materials for today's meeting included a draft definition of the term "lead" which incorporated comments received on the previously circulated draft. Councilman Wells expressed concern about prohibiting the use of electronic collars during non-peak seasons on the beach. He was reminded that the "on lead" restrictions were much less restrictive during those time periods. Councilman Gregg expressed concern that the proposed definition described a thing – "lead" as opposed to an activity "on-lead" or "off-lead," and was asked to provide revised language by the Mayor. There was also a consensus of Council that the definition should include a specific length for the "lead." The Mayor said that he would distribute the agreed upon language to relevant constituencies for comment.

The Mayor introduced a proposal to authorize Code Enforcement Officers to request persons fishing on the beach to relocate when an officer believes the activity is putting other users of the beach at risk. He said that, once language was agreed upon, he would put into ordinance form. Councilman Wells wanted to address instances where, for example, in the case of significant rip-tides, the beach should be closed. The Mayor said that he was agreeable to considering the concept and asked Councilman Wells to review what other municipalities have done on this issue and suggest specific language. Councilman Crane suggested that we also address the issue of unattended fishing poles on the beach. The Mayor asked Councilman Crane to suggest language for this purpose.

The Mayor noted that he and Town Administrator Cronin have had discussions with representatives of Kiawah Resort Associates, the current owners of the property near the southwest corner of the circle: and, at the request of the Town, they have engaged Thomas Hutton, a consulting engineering firm from Mount Pleasant, to conduct a traffic study projecting the incremental traffic volumes, copies of which have been furnished to Council. The study shows a daily traffic flow to and from the proposed senior citizen facility of 632 trips per day. The study concludes that the

incremental traffic volumes do not warrant the addition of either a right or left hand turn lane. The Mayor suggested that there was a lot to digest in the report and he wanted to make sure that Council members had ample opportunity to do so. Councilman Wells said that we need to consider the potential for the development of other properties on both sides of Seabrook Island Road. Town Administrator Cronin noted that the developer of the property will be making a presentation to the Planning Commission in advance of its formal application for access to Seabrook Island Road. He noted that the proposed use of the property will have a low impact on traffic and would probably be lower than most other potential uses.

The Mayor asked for members of Council to provide him with their proposed vacation schedules for the months of August through October, the peak hurricane season. He asked that, if it were possible, council members should try to avoid taking vacations during this period so that they would be available in the event of an evacuation.

The Mayor noted that the City of Charleston had recently adopted a resolution in support of the United Nations Convention to End Discrimination Against Women and that we, along with other Charleston County communities, had received a request from Mayor Tecklenburg to consider adopting a similar resolution. The Convention was signed by President Carter in 1980 but not formally adopted by the U.S. Senate as a treaty. After discussion, the consensus of council was that there was no interest in adopting a resolution as requested.

The Mayor noted that he had asked Town Administrator Cronin to examine whether we could, in any way, limit the number of instances residents are required to obtain building permits. He also suggested that he would like to have a thorough review of the Development Standards Ordinance and that he would be proposing that monies be included in the 2019 budget for this purpose. The Mayor reported that he had been contacted by Katie Arrington, republican candidate for congress. Ms. Arrington would like an opportunity to address Council at our regularly scheduled August meeting. He said that a similar opportunity would be provided to Ms. Arrington's opponent, Joe Cunningham, should Mr. Cunningham request it.

Councilman Crane reported on his inventory of the Town's emergency communication equipment. He stated that, among other things, the Town has two (2) satellite phones, five (5) 800 MHZ radio, and nine (9) HAM radios in various working condition, which are either retained by council members or otherwise at town hall. Council discussed the effectiveness of the HAM radios in communicating during emergencies and, in that regard, Councilman Crane suggested the purchase and test of Comet HT antennas to determine if their use would improve the efficiency of communication.

Councilwoman Finke reported on her research regarding the purchase of garbage cans for use on the beach. She noted that Kiawah has garbage cans on the beach and that its normal waste hauler has been charged with collection of waste on the beach. There was a discussion on the need to amend the Town's agreement with the beach patrol to have its members collect and deposit the trash on a periodic basis. The consensus of Council, given delivery of the garbage cans would be near the end of this vacation season, monies should be included in next year's budget for this purpose.

Councilman Gregg said that the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Mayor had completed its revision of the "Employee Information Packet" to ensure both that (1) the benefits being offered by the Town were consistent with those being offered by South Carolina communities of comparable size and (2) the terms, thereof, were compliant with current South Carolina law. A draft of the proposed employee handbook, which had been reviewed by counsel for the Town, was distributed to members of Council. Councilman Gregg distributed a memorandum, which outlined the revisions made to the handbook and outlined the proposed "leave" policies. The memorandum contained a detailed comparison of the annual leave, sick / personal days, bereavement, jury duty, military service, operational shut down, professional responsibility, pregnancy, unpaid leave and insurance benefits of the Town and other relevant communities. The Mayor thanked the committee for its comprehensive effort and suggested to members of Council that they review the material in detail and provide comment to Councilman Gregg by email within the next three weeks. This matter will be reviewed in detail at the August Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Councilman Wells reviewed the efforts with respect to the dolphin education program and the proposed signs that will be posted during the period of time the volunteers are on the beach. Councilman Wells indicated the number of volunteers for the dolphin program has remained relatively steady at around twelve (12).

Councilman Wells provided an update on the drainage improvement program indicating that the Town would shortly commence construction on repair to the storm pipe drainage system and that replacing all of the drainage valves would commence upon receipt of the final OCRM permit. He indicated that work by the Towns' landscaping service on the ponding issues has been delayed by lack of appropriate easements to permit appropriate survey work to be completed.

Town Administrator Cronin reported that the Planning Commission would consider an application by the Seabrook Island Club for a special use permit to construct a tent during the Alan Fleming Tennis Tournament. If recommended by the

Planning Commission, the application will be presented to Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Town Administrator provided an update on proposed upgrades to the conference room and Council chambers. He noted that contracts had been signed for work on the current conference room, which will become his office, and on his office, which will become the new conference room. A contract has also been signed with Audio Warehouse which will provide an improved recording system for the council chambers. The Town also expects delivery of new furniture for the new conference room, including a larger conference room table, a central mounted fixture, additional canned lighting, a 65" television screen and a HAM radio antenna outlet.

Mr. Cronin reported that the scheduled technology update was in progress. The Town's telephone system was being converted from one VOIP provider to another VOIP provider and the Town's computers were being migrated from a VOA environment to Office 365. Council members are converting from i-Pads to Surface Pros and would be assisted by VC3 in managing the process. Councilman Gregg queried as to whether staff had experienced any degradation of quality of reception in the phone transition. Mr. Cronin responded that it had not.

Mr. Cronin distributed copies of a proposed resident survey to be used by the Planning Commission in connection with the preparation of the Town's comprehensive plan. He indicated that the survey was to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and solicited Council member's comments with respect to the questions proposed to be asked on the survey. It was suggested that the survey be used to identify multiple ownership interests of property within the town. Councilwoman Finke suggested that some of the questions might be duplicative of questions asked by the POA and the Club in their surveys and that those organizations may be better sources for some of the requested information. The Town Administrator also suggested that the town may be able to solicit the rental agencies in order to obtain information from visitors to the island.

Mr. Cronin noted that he and the Mayor had met with representatives of ESP Associates, Inc., regarding various landscaping and engineering issues associated with Seabrook Island Road. At the Mayor's request ESP had presented an outline of potential services ESP would be prepared to provide including: a landscaping assessment / site analysis; a master plan setting forth a suggested redesign of the landscaping on Seabrook Island Road; an engineered plan proposing the placement of pipes, swales and other drainage devices to solve the ponding problem on the road; a new set of drawings for a new landscaping plan; a hardscape plan providing designs for pedestrian walkways and cost estimates for each of the foregoing.

Mr. Cronin reported that the Town had received a permit application from Golf Shore Villas to replace an existing wood restraining wall with a concrete wall. The conversion had been previously approved by the POA Architectural Review Committee. He reviewed with Council relevant sections of the Town's Development Standards Ordinance, which allows only walls or fences made of stucco, cypress, pressure treated wood or similar materials. Mr. Cronin noted that, notwithstanding the provisions of the ordinance, the Town had previously approved a number of concrete fences. After extensive discussion, the consensus of Council was that the Town's ordinance should conform to the requirements of the POA. Mr. Cronin was asked to have an ordinance prepared for Council's consideration to that effect.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



Town Clerk

Date: July 24, 2018