

Town of Seabrook Island
Ways and Means Committee Meeting
December 10, 2019
2:30 P.M.

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

The Mayor confirmed that letters had been sent to the Town's South Carolina legislative delegation expressing opposition to pending South Carolina legislation (SC H4431) directed to reform of business license practices of municipalities. Copies of those letters had been included in members' packets for the meeting. The Mayor noted that, owing to the Town Administrator's recent illness, a response to the unsolicited request to join other low-country municipalities in their opposition to that legislation had not been prepared and renewed his request that the Town Administrator prepare a draft response for the Mayor.

The Mayor summarized correspondence from SIPOA's President concerning renewed interest in Federal legislation directed to amending the Stafford Act to facilitate reimbursement of costs of debris removal by so-called "common interest communities" and informed Council that, on the Mayor's request, Councilwoman Finke would be following developments in that regard. Councilwoman Finke stated that the relevant legislation is House of Representatives Bill HR5337 which was introduced in early December 2019 and is currently with the Subcommittee on Economic Development of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. She indicated she would keep Council apprised of progress of that legislation.

The Mayor reminded Council that residents of Old Drake Drive had submitted a letter to the Town, the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association and the Seabrook Island Club requesting that deterioration of buffer landscaping be addressed along Old Drake Drive near facilities of the Club and Seabrook Island Utility Commission. The Mayor noted that the President of SIPOA had indicated that SIUC was going to reconsider its response to an earlier request of Mr. Stare concerning the landscaping. In light of that information, the Mayor expressed his view that Council should hold further discussion until having the benefit of the expected determination by SIUC.

The Mayor reminded Council of its approval of engagement of a part-time code enforcement officer to, among other things, address monitoring of compliance with the recent revisions of the Town's ordinance regulating the presence of dogs on the beach and asked Mr. Cronin to report progress on that engagement. Mr. Cronin indicated that he had a successful contact with Island Beach Services seeking to identify a candidate to serve as that part-time code enforcement officer and would be following-up with that candidate before the end of the year.

The Mayor reminded Council of the presentation by representatives of ESP Associates at the November Council meeting of proposed improvements to the Town Hall site to reduce recurrent ponding. The Mayor noted that ESP Associates had also been asked to address ponding along Seabrook Island Road and that the Town had received estimates for costs to increase the level of the roadway of Seabrook Island Road between Landfall Way and the traffic circle at the entrance to FreshFields Village. The Mayor informed Council that he had asked Councilman Goldstein to collect the information that had been provided to the Town in respect of these drainage related proposals and undertake a cost/benefit analysis to be shared with Council. Mr.

Goldstein acknowledged he had begun collecting the materials and would be preparing a report for Council.

The Mayor began a discussion of appointments to Town boards, commissions and committees that would be on the agenda for the December Council meeting:

Planning Commission—Wayne Billian, Sharon Welch and Jim Newton;

Board of Zoning Appeals—Janet Gorski;

DSO Advisory Group—Bob Driscoll (resident member) and representative of Planning Commission to be named;

Public Safety Committee—Frank Farfone, Ed Maher, and Elizabeth Murphy (one opening remaining);

Town Attorney—Stephen Brown;

Town Clerk—Faye Allbritton;

Zoning Administrator—Joe Cronin.

Councilwoman Finke inquired as to the method used to identify candidates for appointments and Council discussed the merits of “advertising” opportunities for service on the various Town boards, commissions and committees. In the course of that discussion, it was indicated that Tidelines and the Town website would be good channels for communicating the opportunities for service and that the Town could then maintain information about persons who had expressed a willingness to serve. The Mayor asked Councilwoman Fox to give this matter consideration to develop a more complete “plan-of-attack” for Council.

Mr. Crane announced that he would be reporting for the Public Safety Committee at the December Council meeting.

Ms. Finke indicated she had no report in addition to that already given concerning House Bill HR5337. The Mayor asked that she consider representing the Town on the Johns Island Task Force, noting that that organization had recently issued a statement that he would share with her. He noted that that group is primarily interested in conservation on Johns Island but follows information concerning developments on Johns Island that come before County Council and City of Charleston Council and their respective regulatory agencies.

Mr. Cronin began his remarks with introduction of Patrick Barrineau representing Coastal Science & Engineering (“CSE”), the consulting firm that was responsible for the 2019 update of the Town’s Comprehensive Beach Management Plan. Mr. Barrineau remarked that they had received comments from Ocean & Coastal Resource Management that required updating the revision to reflect the restoration of the so-called beachfront Base Line and Setback Line to their 2009 locations (a change from the relocation of both pursuant to State legislation in 2017 in consequence of a policy change from so-called 40 year retreat to 40 year beach preservation). The significant impact of that change reduced the number of structures identified as seaward of the setback line from thirty-two (32) to two (2). Mr. Barrineau indicated that to the extent that CSE received any other comments requiring changes, those changes would be included in the Plan that would be provided for the December Council meeting.

Mr. Cronin indicated that a resolution would be on the December Council agenda to permit discharge of firearms for the 2019 deer “culling”.

Mr. Cronin noted that the proposed contract with Mauldin and Jenkins for audit services for the Town and SIUC would be on the December Council meeting agenda for approval by Council to authorize the Mayor to negotiate terms if required and execute the contract on behalf

of the Town. The draft contract was included in members' packets for the Ways & Means meeting.

Mr. Cronin commented in respect of the extraordinary delay in delivery of the 2018 financial audit for the Town and SIUC, partially attributed to a change in practice by SIUC. He noted that the Town is obliged to meet a deadline for the audit to allow for continued funding from the State beyond the end of the year. In response to a suggestion of Council, the Mayor agreed to prepare a letter to the audit provider (Glaser & Co.) emphasizing the need to have the audit delivered at the December Council meeting.

Mr. Cronin indicated the proposed schedules of Town holidays and meeting days would be on the agenda for approval by Council at the December Council meeting. It was recommended that both be made available through Tidelines and at the Town's website.

Mr. Cronin distributed a proposed schedule for the Town's Beach Patrol for 2020 noting the change for the start of patrols to April compared to March in 2019 and the change to continuation of patrols through September compared to the 2019 schedule of weekend only patrols during September. Mr. Cronin noted that the revisions to the schedule are consistent with the revisions of the Town's ordinance regulating the presence of dogs on the beach. Councilwoman Finke inquired as to tending of garbage cans at the beach by the beach patrol vendor. Mr. Cronin indicated he would discuss that with the vendor in the near future.

Mr. Cronin commented in respect of a demonstration for a recent meeting of the SIPOA Safety and Security Committee of so-called "pedal assist bicycles". He noted that the vendor (Island Bike & Surf) had provided material concerning the "pedal assist bicycles" and their acceptance for use in National Parks. He also noted that by virtue of South Carolina's laws governing motorized vehicles and the Town's adoption of those laws, the use of "pedal assist bicycles" on Seabrook Island Road and the bicycle/pedestrian path is prohibited. In the event of a change of rules by SIPOA, the Town may be asked to accommodate use of "pedal assist bicycles" on the Town's bike path.

Mr. Cronin reported that Charleston County has confirmed that the Town's Community Rating System rating remains "5" for which residents are provided a 25% discount on National Flood Insurance Program flood insurance premiums.

Mr. Cronin reported that Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol had submitted a funding request to the Town. He noted that Council had approved an item in the Town's 2020 budget for a so-called Community Promotions Program with initial funding of \$5,000 that would allow the Town to make contributions in response to requests from local organizations. The Mayor expressed his preference for the request from Turtle Patrol to be addressed under that program. Councilwoman Finke and Mr. Cronin agreed to collaborate on developing particulars of that program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at about 4:20 pm.

Date: December 17, 2019



Town Clerk