

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND
Town Council Meeting of July 22, 2014

MINUTES

At 1:45 p.m., Obviouslee Marketing gave a brief summary of the second quarter online marketing report by telephone.

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Ahearn called the July 22, 2014, Town Council meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Councilmen Ciancio, Gregg, Romano and Turner, Town Administrator Pierce, Town Clerk Allbritton and several guests attended the meeting. The meeting was properly posted and the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act were met.

Minutes – The minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 24, 2014, were unanimously approved.

Financials – Mayor Ahearn reported that revenue for the month of June was approximately \$13,000 in excess of budget and, year to date, revenue was in excess of budget by about \$50,000. Expenditures for June exceeded budget by \$21,000, mostly due to expenditures for roadway maintenance and for the new telephone system, but expenditures for the year to date are still below budget by approximately \$25,000.

Citizens/Guests Presentations, Comments: None

Reports of Standing Committees, Commissions, Boards:

Governments Relations – No Report

Community Relations – Councilman Romano reported that he attended the Property Owners Association (POA) Planning Committee meeting on July 15. At that meeting, a final draft of the 2015 update of the Strategic Plan was approved for submission to the Board, which meets on July 21. The complete plan is in three sections – 0 to 2 year operational plan, 2 to 5 year strategic plan and 5 to 25 year long term plan. At that meeting, Jim Bannwart, chair of the Sustainable Seabrook Committee, also outlined recommendations for various streetscape elements including colors, designs, directional signs, etc., that should be considered in order to keep such things standard on the island. The Gateway Committee met this month with Tyco, a security firm, to determine if there is a more efficient way for residents and contractors to enter and exit the security gate and Tyco's recommendation was to continue with the current system.

Community Relations – Councilman Gregg reported that the Club's Long Range Planning Committee met on July 17 to discuss preparations for the August 19 planning session with the Board. The Long Range Planning Committee has identified three areas of inquiry and those three areas were given to members of the committee to research before the planning session. There will be a presentation of the 2014 POA/Club joint survey summary at the Club's open meeting on July 31.

Communications/Planning Commission – Councilman Turner reported that the final ruling designating Seabrook Island's beach as critical habitat for loggerhead turtles will be effective as of August 1. It is important to take a look at the Town's ordinances and regulations to make sure they are consistent with the ruling and are being enforced. Councilman Turner also reported that the Town is planning to engage an environmental attorney, Ben Hagood of Moore & Van Allen, to give advice on what, if any, action the Town should take due to the ruling. Councilman Turner intends to communicate to residents the importance of protecting the turtle as intended in the Town's ordinances and the Turtle Patrol regulations. Councilman Ciancio stated that the things mentioned in US Fish & Wildlife's ruling are not necessarily prohibited but are considerations when doing your Beach Management Plan or ordinances you have to take into consideration.

Planning & Development – Councilman Ciancio reported that the following occurred during the month regarding advertising and promotion:

- Signed a contract for a full page ad that will appear in the September issue of *US Air Magazine* for a cost of \$3,500.
- Approved the content and copy for a re-marketing campaign that will be aimed at leads obtained from the ads in *Southern Living*. The campaign will consist of a series of five monthly emails each featuring a different aspect of Seabrook Island.

- Obviouslee Marketing continues to pitch travel bloggers with the goal of getting Seabrook Island published in one or more of the blogs.

Last month, a contract was presented to Council for the revision of the Town's website; but the motion to approve the contract was tabled since Council members did not have an opportunity to review the contract before the meeting. Councilman Ciancio stated that a revised agreement has been marked to show changes to the prior draft, which had been suggested by Mayor Ahearn and other interested parties, and is included in Council packets. Councilman Ciancio moved that Council take from the table the motion that was made at the last meeting to consider and approve the service agreement with Obviouslee Marketing as presented. Councilman Gregg seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Public Safety – Councilman Gregg reported that the Public Safety Committee met on July 14 to work on an outline for the emergency preparedness content to be included in the Town Administration section of the updated Town website. Links will be added to the Town website related to emergency preparedness so that visitors will be able to access pertinent information. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for August 11 when this information will be put in the final form to present to Obviouslee Marketing as they begin to update the website.

Councilman Gregg stated that he has submitted an article that reports on the Disaster Recovery Council earthquake exercise that was held on June 19 for the August issue of *The Seabrooker*. The Public Safety Committee will be reviewing Scott Cave's report on the earthquake exercise and respond and address issues that appear in that report. The next meeting of the Disaster Recovery Committee will be in September and they will also be directed to examine Scott Cave's report.

Councilman Gregg reported that a contract for the lease of a temporary storage and reduction site has been reviewed and forwarded back to the land owner on June 25. The Town is also pursuing a contract with a vendor for monitoring services in connection with debris management and comments on this contract were sent back to the vendor on July 14.

Ways & Means – No Report

Planning Commission – Chairman John Wells commented that the update of the Beach Management Plan is coming together very well. Bill Nelson, who is editor of the revised Beach Management Plan, reviewed the updated timeline for the document and stated that he should have a completed draft of the document by the end of the month. A few people that have been involved in the project will read the draft, fine tune it, and it should be ready to share with Council by first part of September. Mr. Nelson reported that the committee working on the Beach Management Plan has solicited issues that residents have with the beach but almost none of the issues have a significant impact on the document. Councilman Ciancio stated that he does not feel that issues, which he considered extraneous to the plan, should be addressed in the Beach Management Plan; but, if there are issues dealing with the Town's ordinances, they should be brought to the attention of Town Council independently of the plan. Councilman Ciancio commented that the Town is in the process of reviewing their Ordinances, particularly as they apply to the beach. Mr. Nelson agreed to make a list of the problem areas that affect the Town that would be ordinance considerations and provide this list to Council.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No Report

Reports of Ad Hoc Committees:

Accommodations Tax Advisory –No Report

Reports of Town Officers:

Mayor – Mayor Ahearn reported that Town Council had previously discussed skipping one of their summer meetings; but Glenda Miller, a Seabrook Island resident, said she thought municipalities had to meet every month. Upon checking the relevant state statutes, Mayor Ahearn has found this to be true. Mayor Ahearn also stated that the ordinance is worded so that, when the meeting falls on a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the following Tuesday. The two months where there is a problem with a quorum of Council are November and December. In December, if Christmas fell on Tuesday and if the meeting were moved forward a week, the meeting would still fall on a holiday as well as not being in the same month. If Council did not have a quorum in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday and it were moved forward a week, this would also throw the meeting into another month. Council will look at changing the wording on this ordinance and should have an ordinance ready for first reading at the August meeting.

Town Administrator – Town Administrator Pierce reported that the Town’s new telephone system has been installed by VC3. VC3 has also been working on patches to the Business License and Court programs so that the Town’s computer systems can be web based in the cloud.

Town Administrator Pierce stated that there are a few fund balances on the financials that should be eliminated since the projects have been completed. The Town Administrator recommended moving \$7,519.70 that remains in the Parking Annex/Bike Path account and \$12,245.05 remaining in the Parkway Landscape & Drainage account to Roadway Maintenance. If other landscape projects come up during the year, they can be done; and, if a balance is remaining at the end of the year, it can then go back into the General Fund. There is also \$5,000 left in the Johns Island Roadway Consultant account that should be eliminated and that can be put back into the General Fund. Councilman Turner moved instead to transfer the total amount remaining in the Parkway Landscape & Drainage account, the Parking Annex/Bike Path account and the Johns Island Roadway Consultant account into the Emergency Fund. Councilman Gregg seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Town Council Members – See Above

Utility Commission – Chairman Jeff Bostock reported that Bruce Stoehr, President of Hawthorne Services, attended the Utility Commission’s meeting last week and reviewed upcoming management transitions that included three retirements from management at Hawthorne Services. Operations for water and waste treatment were normal for the past month and net cash flow was positive, mostly due to impact fees and increase in water sales due to irrigation. The Utility Commission has begun to discuss the necessity of a rate increase in 2015 since there has not been an increase in water bills since 2010. Since water bought from Charleston Water is expected to go up about 4.5% next year and an estimated 4% for every year after that, a potential policy change to pass the increase in the cost of water along to residents is currently being considered. Chairman Bostock explained that the Utility Commission is in a position currently that does not allow them to borrow any money. The impact without an increase for the next five years means that the Utility Commission’s cash would go down by about \$550,000 to \$600,000 and something must be done to make that up. The increase on average consumption of 6,000 gallons could range from about \$.72 per month up to as much as \$2.55, depending on the amount of the increase.

Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of: None

Ordinances for First Reading: None

Ordinances for Second Reading: None

Miscellaneous Business: Councilman Ciancio stated that he and Town Administrator Pierce will be attending a meeting of coastal communities on August 12 and 13 in downtown Charleston to discuss issues that are common to beach communities.

Citizens Comments: A resident questioned whether it had been determined what utilities would have to be moved if the security gate were to be moved. Councilman Romano stated that had not yet been determined.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved: August 26, 2014

Faye Allbritton, Clerk/Treasurer