

# Town Council Regular Meeting

January 27, 2026 – 2:30 PM

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Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers  
2001 Seabrook Island Road  
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kleinman called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.

### ROLL CALL

**Council Members Present:** Bruce Kleinman; Mayor, Patrick Faulkner, Thomas Hund, and Raymond Hamilton

**Town Staff Present:** Joe Cronin (Town Administrator), Abby Grooms (Communications and Events Coordinator), Tyler Newman (Zoning Administrator), Amber Howard (Finance Director), and Peter Wiggins (Town Clerk).

### FOIA STATEMENT

The Town Clerk confirmed that the meeting was advertised in compliance with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Agendas were posted and furnished to news media and all others requesting notification.

### ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

*Mayor Kleinman motioned to nominate Darryl May as Mayor Pro-Tempore for a two-year term.*

Mayor Kleinman's motion was APPROVED unanimously.

### OTHER ACTION ITEMS

#### **Shorebird Steward Program**

*Mr. Hamilton motioned to approve the Town of Seabrook Island's statement of support for the Shorebird Steward Program, seconded by Mr. Faulkner.*

Mr. Hamilton's motion was APPROVED unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### **January 12, 2026**

*Mr. Faulkner motioned to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, seconded by Mr. Hamilton.*

Mr. Faulkner's motion was APPROVED unanimously.

### PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

**Ordinance 2025-11; An ordinance amending the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 2, Administration; Article VI, Financial Administration; Division 1, Generally; Section 2-608, Fund Balance Policy; so as to amend the town's Fund Balance Policy**

Mayor Kleinman opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2025-11.

Upon hearing there was no one present who wished to speak on Ordinance 2025-11, Mayor Kleinman closed the public hearing.

**REPORTS OF TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

**Environment & Wildlife**

Mr. Hamilton stated the first committee meeting of 2026 is scheduled for February 5, at 10:00 am.

He announced that Camp St. Christopher is having a Wildlife Workshop on February 3, at 6:00 pm. He stated that the workshop will have information on biodiversity and how humans can coexist with wildlife. Mr. Hamilton also announced that Jeff Davis of SIPOA had a great article in the January edition of "Currents" on how humans can coexist with coyotes.

**Public Safety**

Mayor Kleinman stated he chaired a meeting of the Public Safety Committee in Mr. May's absence. He stated the committee was advised on the upcoming Beach Patrol Services RFP.

**Discretionary Grants**

Mr. Faulkner stated the committee met on January 21. He stated the committee discussed the powers and duties granted to the committee under the current ordinance. He added that the committee will be recommending the Conservation and Community Promotions Grant Programs be merged into one program. He also added the committee will be recommending the grant limit per applicant be raised to \$5,000.00 from \$2,500.00. He closed by stating the committee will be recommending the town enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with each applicant that lays out the terms and conditions of the applicant receiving grant funding.

**Community Facilities & Infrastructure**

Mr. Hund stated the first committee meeting is scheduled for January 29. He stated there is work to do related to prioritizing the powers and duties of the committee. He stated the committee will be discussing the Seabrook Island Road project, as well as the need for a new town hall. He stated he also wanted the committee to discuss a vision for the committee that allows the members to be involved in other projects on the island such as the Seabrook Island Master Plan.

**Seabrook Island Utility Commission**

Mr. Ferland updated the council on SIUC's finances for December 2025.

Mr. Ferland stated the Pond Project is complete. He stated the project consisted of approximately \$12 million of work. He added the work on Pump Station #1 is complete.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there is any major work planned for 2026.

Mr. Ferland stated there is other work planned for two pump station rebuilds, as well as other regular maintenance planned for the coming year.

### **REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS & STAFF**

#### **Mayor**

Mr. Kleinman stated he wanted to address the Town's efforts to acquire funding through the proposed Transportation Sales Tax (TST) for the Seabrook Island Road Project. He reminded residents that the council passed a resolution in 2025 that supported the Town pursuing funding through the TST program. He urged Seabrookers to submit public comments to Charleston County in support of the project. Mr. Kleinman closed by stating that residents, visitors, and business owners have been paying into the TST program and the Town has yet to receive funding for a project within its municipal limits.

Mr. Kleinman reminded council that the Town has scheduled a strategic planning workshop for March 10. He continued by urging council to formulate their own list of priorities prior to the workshop so the meeting could be both more efficient and productive.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the Town could submit an example form letter for residents to forward to Charleston County.

Mac McQuillin, Town Attorney, stated the Town could urge residents to voice their opinion in favor of a specific project. He continued by saying the Town should be cautious not to use public resources to influence the outcome of any potential referendum.

Mr. Kleinman stated he didn't think that having residents submit a form letter was a great way to gather support for the road project. Mr. Kleinman stated he would work with the Town's Communications and Events Coordinator to decide how best to gather support for the project. Mr. Kleinman closed by stating that nothing is better than word of mouth support.

Mr. Hamilton stated his idea was to compress the recent Pelican's Brief email and compress it to three bullet points that could be submitted as public comments to Charleston County.

**Town Administrator**

Mr. Cronin stated the Town has issued a Request for Proposal for Beach Patrol Services. He continued by saying the proposal asked the bidder to submit proposals for April through September service as has been practiced in the past, but also includes a request to submit a cost for year-round service. He stated he had been contacted by three prospective bidders. He stated the Public Safety Committee will be the recommending body, and council will award the contract.

Mr. Cronin stated that now the Seafields facility is complete, there needs to be a post-construction inspection of the right-of-way. The inspection will assess any damage to the right-of-way that is a result of the construction of the new facility. He stated the Town is using G. Robert George and Associates for the damage assessment/post-construction inspection.

**Finance Director**

Ms. Howard gave an update on the Town's financials as of December 31, 2025.

Mr. Hamilton asked what percentage of the fund balances is interest.

Ms. Howard stated in 2025, the Town received \$475,000 in interest from the Local Government Investment Pool.

Mr. Hamilton asked why the local accommodations tax payments received by the Town have increased, while the State Accommodations Tax payments have decreased.

Mr. Cronin stated the local accommodations tax is a newer tax. He stated that the Town continues to see better compliance, and thus payments to the Town continue to increase relative to the growth/decline of State Accommodations Tax payments.

**Zoning Administrator**

Mr. Newman gave an update on Zoning and Code Enforcement activities since the December meeting.

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING**

**Ordinance 2025-11: An ordinance amending the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 2, Administration; Article VI, Financial Administration; Division 1, Generally; Section 2-608, Fund Balance Policy; so as to amend the fund balance policy**

Mr. Cronin gave a brief history of the ordinance to update Mr. Hund and Mr. Faulkner.

*Mr. Hund motioned to pass Ordinance 2025-11 at second reading, seconded by Mr. Hamilton.*

**Mr. Hund's motion was APPROVED unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the council, Mr. Kleinman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.

Peter D. Wiggins II, MPA  
Town Clerk