

# Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

October 16, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

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



## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kortvelesy called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

### ROLL CALL

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Dan Kortvelesy; Committee members John Kinne (Virtual), and Leslie Baylis, and Ed Maher.

**Town Staff Present:** Joe Cronin (Town Administrator), Abigail Grooms (Communications Manager), and Peter Wiggins (Town Clerk).

### FOIA STATEMENT

Mr. Wiggins 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 persons requesting notification.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Maher made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, meeting, seconded by Ms. Baylis.

**The meeting minutes of May 14, 2024, were approved UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Kinne made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024, meeting, seconded by Mr. Maher.

Mr. Kinne asked Mr. Kortvelesy if these, more detailed minutes, would be the standard going forward. Mr. Kortvelesy said he noted the same style, but that he and the Town Clerk would discuss the minutes in the near future.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked Mr. Kinne if there was anything in the minutes he had reviewed that could be misleading. Mr. Kinne said he had not noticed anything.

Mr. Cronin said that as someone who regularly reviews minutes, he likes to see more detail. He also stated the reason the minutes had become so general was the workload being imposed on the prior Town Clerk/Assistant Town Administrator.

Mr. Kinne reminded the committee members when they asked these questions of prior Town Attorney's, their advice was that the minutes should be kept general.

Mr. Kortvelesy said he would meet with the Town Clerk and find a happy medium on the minutes going forward.

The meeting minutes of May 21, 2024, were approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Maher made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2024, seconded by Mr. Kinne.

The meeting minutes of July 16, 2024, were approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kinne made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2024, seconded by Mr. Maher.

The meeting minutes of August 20, 2024, were approved UNANIMOUSLY.

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**  
CCSO Update

Deputy Thomas Junkin gave a report on law enforcement activity on and around Seabrook Island.

He stated that call volume coming from Seabrook Island has been down recently, but that traffic enforcement on Seabrook Island Road would be increasing.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked Deputy Junkin how the county's dispatch center handles commercial and residential alarm calls. The Deputy stated that the alarm company will attempt to reach the property owner. If the owner provides their password to the alarm company, a service call would not be initiated by the sheriff's office. In the event they cannot provide the password, a sheriff's deputy will go to the address of the alarm and confirm that everything is secure.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked if most of the tickets issued for speeding on Seabrook Island Road resulted in a warning or a citation. Deputy Junkin stated that the penalty is up to the discretion of the officer.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked if any citations or warnings were issued to LSV's. Deputy Junkin stated he was aware of one instance. He stated the LSV was operated by an underage driver.

Mr. Cronin asked Deputy Junkin about an issue that residents were having with coyotes. He stated that one individual said they were going to carry a gun with them everywhere and if they saw a coyote they were going to shoot it.

The deputy stated it was unlawful to discharge a firearm within city limits. He said that would make it unlawful for that individual to discharge a weapon on Seabrook Island.

Deputy Junkin urged staff to forward the issue to the SCDNR.

#### FY 2025 Budget

Mr. Cronin stated he contacted the Town's beach patrol provider to get a quote for year-round patrols. He stated they had not responded as of the current meeting date. Further, Mr. Cronin stated that the FY 2025 budget did not have funds for a year-round patrol. He stated that a year-round patrol would require another \$150,000.

Mr. Kinne left the meeting at 10:57 am.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated that in lieu of a year-round safety patrol, he was working to ensure there was money in the FY 2025 budget to install new beach signage. He stated he wanted to install signage at every boardwalk to advise swimmers of potential dangers like rip currents.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated he spoke to Ben Webster of Charleston County Emergency Management about upgrading radios the Town currently owns.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked Mr. Cronin about the possibility of changing emergency notifications providers. Mr. Cronin stated he would need to see when the contract period is up with the Town's current provider.

#### SIPOA Safety & Security

Mr. Kortvelesy asked the committee to brainstorm safety topics that could be discussed at the November meeting. He said representatives from SIPOA's Safety & Security committee would be in attendance.

#### Comprehensive Emergency Plan Update

Mr. Cronin asked the committee to review the FEMA guide for local government entities for drafting emergency plans. He stated the guide establishes a framework for a layered cooperation between local, state, and federal entities.

Mr. Cronin stated the largest need in updating the plan was changing the emergency organizational structure. He stated when the plan was drafted, the Town had three full-time staff. He went on to say that the roles and responsibilities were mainly assigned to members of the committee and council. He stated the new plan should assign most of those responsibilities to staff rather than elected officials.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated his wish for the new plan was a new risk assessment. He also stated that data gathered from the last valid census, considering the plan is fifteen years old, should be updated.

Mr. Cronin stated that the Charleston County Comprehensive Emergency Plan was a good plan on which to model the Town's emergency plan.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated the committee should hold a two or three hour work session where the committee can collaborate with the Disaster Recovery Council and SIPOA.

Ms. Baylis recommended that the committee collaborate with other entities for help as the committee and staff begin to draft the new emergency plan. She stated that other entities could advise the town on issues and/or pitfalls to avoid.

Mr. Maher asked a question as to the nature of the rewrite of the emergency plan. He asked whether it was going to be an update of the 2009 plan, or whether the committee needed to think about a larger rewrite. Mr. Cronin stated that personally, he would rather the committee and staff approach the new emergency plan as a total rewrite.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

There were no committee comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Kortvelesy declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

Peter D. Wiggins II, MPA  
Town Clerk