

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Meeting

May 23, 2023

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MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Roll Call – Freedom of Information – Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gregg called the May 23, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 2:30PM. Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilmen Goldstein (virtual) and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, Zoning Administrator Newman, and Assistant Town Administrator Watkins participated in the meeting. The Assistant Town Administrator confirmed that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2023
- Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
- Town Council Joint Work Session with Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of April 25th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of April 25th were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of May 9th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of May 9th were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of May 17th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of May 17th were approved.

3. Presentations:

None.

4. Public Hearing Items:

None.

5. Citizens Comments:

Town Clerk Watkins listed the individuals who submitted public comments prior to the meeting.

A copy of the comments is available with these minutes and upon request.

6. Reports of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

- **Advisory Committees**

- Community Promotions and Engagement Committee

Councilwoman Fox summarized the most recent Community Promotions and Engagement Committee meeting of May 18th.

Councilwoman Fox reminded residents of the upcoming Chow Town Food Truck Rodeo on May 31st and Disaster Awareness Day on June 1st.

Councilwoman Fox summarized the most recent Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) long-range planning meeting.

- Environment and Wildlife Committee

Councilwoman Finke noted that the Environment & Wildlife Committee is working on the proposed changes to the beach ordinance and the next meeting will be on June 8th.

- Public Safety Committee

Councilman Kortvelesy noted that the upcoming Disaster Awareness Day on June 1st will also be livestreamed and recorded.

Councilman Kortvelesy summarized the most recent Public Safety Committee meeting of May 18th.

- Public Works Committee

Councilman Goldstein updated members on the status of Seabrook Island Road, the Town Hall Annex, and the Town Hall Garage.

- **Special Committees**

None.

- **Ad Hoc Committees**

Councilwoman Finke updated members on the proposed plan for recommendations on changes to short-term rental regulations.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals**

None.

- **Planning Commission**

None.

- **State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

None.

- **Utility Commission**

None.

7. Reports Town Officers:

- **Mayor**

- Update Concerning Town's Application for Public Assistance (Hurricane Ian)

Mayor Gregg updated Council Members on the status for the request for public assistance related to Hurricane Ian.

- Update Concerning Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mayor Gregg updated the Council on the status of the town's portion of the Charleston Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Update from Recent Information Discussions with Representatives of Community Organizations

Mayor Gregg summarized discussions had with representatives of the Club and the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) regarding the following topics:

- SIPOA's Legal Committee recommendations for the regulations of short-term rentals.
- SIPOA's Legal Committee discussions regarding the agreement providing gate access for residents of Bohicket Marina Condominiums is coming upon expiration.
- the Club noted concerns with beach erosion in the vicinity of the Pelican's Nest and the view that help will be needed from SIPOA and, possibly, the Town to address the erosion.

- Update Concerning State Budget Proviso 113.11

Mayor Gregg updated the Council on State Budget Proviso 113.11.

Town Administrator Cronin clarified the status of the proposed state budget proviso 113.11.

- Resident Request for Town Regulation of Noise

Mayor Gregg summarized a discussion had with a resident of Landfall Way concerning repeated noise during evening hours from a nearby source. The resident requested that the Town undertake regulation of noise. Mayor Gregg noted he has had discussions with Town Administrator Cronin about a potential nuisance ordinance.

A discussion was had on potentially creating an island-wide noise ordinance and how the Town would enforce these potential regulations.

- **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Cronin reminded all the first Chow Town Food Truck Rodeo will be on May 31st & Disaster Awareness Day on June 1st with Trooper Bob.

Town Administrator Cronin noted Robin Ochoa, Communications & Events Manager, is currently in training with the State to become a certified PIO.

Town Administrator Cronin noted the internet failover has been installed by VC3 and summarized how it works.

Town Administrator Cronin noted the Town has finished the business license and short-term rental renewals as of April 30th and noted the number of renewals that were processed as compared to last year.

A discussion was had on the number of short-term rentals renewed this year compared to last.

- **Assistant Town Administrator**

- Report of Financials for the Month of April 2023

Assistant Town Administrator Watkins noted the April 2023 financials will be presented at the June Town Council Work Session due to technical difficulties with QuickBooks.

- Update on the FY 2022 Audit

Assistant Town Administrator Watkins updated members on the status of the FY 2022 audit and the auditors will be giving their presentation to Council during the June Town Council Regular Meeting.

- **Town Attorney**

None.

- **Zoning Administrator**

- Code Enforcement Summary

Zoning Administrator Newman summarized the code enforcement summary since the previous Council meeting.

- **Communications & Events Manager**

None.

8. Ordinances for Second Reading:

None.

9. Ordinances for First Reading:

- Ord. 2023-04: An ordinance amending the annual operating budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023

Town Administrator Cronin summarized Ord. 2023-04 for Council and where the fund balances for FY 2023 would be if the proposed budget amendment is approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve Ord. 2023-04; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Ord. 2023-04 passed first reading.

10. Other Action Items:

- Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Appointment: Appointment to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for the vacant hospitality term ending 2024.

Councilwoman Finke inquired if Council would be able to defer the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Appointment until the June Town Council Meeting to find a qualified candidate to fulfill the hospitality vacancy.

Town Administrator Cronin clarified the S.C. State Law as it relates to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee breakdown.

Mayor Gregg tabled the appointment of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Tax Committee until the next meeting.

11. Items for Information or Discussion:

None.

12. Citizen Comments:

None.

13. Council Comments

None.

14. Adjournment

Councilwoman Finke moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44PM.

Date: May 23, 2023

Prepared by: *Katharine E. Watkins*
Assistant Town Administrator