

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council – Work Session

July 11, 2023

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MINUTES

Call to Order – Roll Call – Freedom of Information

Mayor Gregg called the July 11, 2023, Town Council Work Session to order at 1:00PM. Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Joe Cronin, Communications & Events Manager Robin Ochoa, Zoning Administrator Tyler Newman, and Assistant Town Administrator Katharine Watkins participated in the meeting. The Assistant Town Administrator confirmed that notice of the meeting was posted, and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Presentations:

- Presentation from Explore Charleston, (formally Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau) on their FY 2023-2024 budget specifically for the 30% of State Accommodations Tax Funds received from the Town of Seabrook Island.

Chris Campbell (Vice President – Strategy & External Affairs), Chisolm Seabrook Greene (Assistant Director of Marketing), and Anne McEwen (Director of Membership Development, TMP) from Explore Charleston presented the 30% budget of State Accommodations Tax received from the Town of Seabrook Island and summarized what Explore Charleston does.

There was also a quorum of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee present as follows: Randy Buck (Chair), Joanne Fagan, Susan Leggett, Ann O'Rourke, Ronald Schildge, and Stuart Spisak.

Town Administrator Cronin commented on the vacation rental performance for 2019, 2022, and 2023 with regards to a slight decrease in the number of guests staying post pandemic, and the number of short-term rental permits on Seabrook Island.

A discussion was had on international travel, and which countries does Explore Charleston advertise the area to.

Mayor John Gregg

- Update of Town of Seabrook Island Request for Public Assistance (Hurricane Ian)

Mayor Gregg updated the Council on the status of the Town of Seabrook Island Request for Public Assistance from Hurricane Ian.

- Update Concerning Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mayor Gregg updated the council on the status of the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Town Council Members:

- **Jeri Finke**

Councilwoman Finke thanked members of Town Staff.

- **Patricia Fox**

Councilwoman thanked Town Staff.

Councilwoman Fox noted the upcoming Community Promotions and Engagement Committee Meeting on July 20th has been canceled.

Councilwoman Fox reminded all the upcoming Chow Town Food Truck Rodeo will be on July 12th from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

Councilwoman Fox summarized the SIPOA long range planning meeting.

Councilwoman Fox reminded all the upcoming Planning Commission meeting will be on July 12th at 1:30PM.

- **Barry Goldstein**

Councilman Goldstein thanked Town Staff.

Councilman Goldstein summarized the Public Works Committee meeting of July 10th.

Councilman Goldstein updated the council on the proposed town hall annex, town hall garage, and crosswalk signs.

A discussion was had on the solar issue related to the installation of the crosswalks.

- **Dan Kortvelesy**

Councilman Kortvelesy thanked Town Staff.

Town Administrator Joe Cronin

- Other Items

Thanked the Council for the comments in support of Town Staff.

Town Administrator Cronin noted the Code Enforcement Portal is live and on the Town's Website: www.townofseabrookisland.org

Town Administrator Cronin noted the Accommodations Tax Applications for Fiscal Year 2024 are now available on the Town's website and the deadline to apply is on Monday August 7th, 2023,

at 12:00PM and summarized the application process. Town Administrator Cronin clarified what the Accommodations Tax Committee will be making a recommendation for the use of the State Accommodations Tax Funds received for the 65%.

Town Administrator Cronin noted there is a Planning Commission Regular Meeting on July 12th at 1:30PM for the discussion of the proposed annexation request and clarified what the Planning Commission will be discussing at the meeting.

The council clarified what the planning commission will be making a recommendation on.

- Action Items for July 25, 2023, Meeting
 - Ord. 2023-05: An ordinance amending the zoning map of the Town of Seabrook Island so as to change the zoning designation for Charleston County Tax Map Number 149-05-00-143, containing approximately 0.29+/- acres located at 2961 Deer Point Drive, from the Moderate Lot Single Family (R-SF2) District to the Conservation (CP) District.

Town Administrator Cronin summarized Ord. 2023-05 and noted it is up for second reading at the July 25th Town Council Regular Meeting.

Other Action Items:

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

Mayor Gregg moved to appoint Eduard Suarasan to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for the vacant hospitality term ending 2024; Councilwoman Finke seconded. All voted in Favor.

Mr. Suarasan was appointed to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

Adjourn

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Gregg thanked members of Town Staff.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:12PM.

Date: July 11, 2023

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