

Town Council Regular Meeting

July 22, 2025 @ 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 2:29 pm.

ROLL CALL

Town Council Members Present: Mayor Kleinman; Councilmembers Darryl May, Gordon Weis, Raymond Hamilton and Dan Kortvelesy.

Town Staff Present: Joe Cronin (Town Administrator), Abby Grooms (Communications & Events Manager), Tyler Newman (Zoning Administrator), and Peter Wiggins (Clerk/Treasurer)

FOIA STATEMENT

The Clerk/Treasurer 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 27, 2025

June 24, 2025

Mr. Weis motioned to approve the minutes of the May 27 and June 24 meetings, seconded by Mr. Kortvelesy.

Before voting, Mr. May asked unanimous consent to, in the minutes of the June 24 meeting, strike his reference in the LSV discussion of residents saying that motorists who are stuck behind slower moving LSV's relax and enjoy the slower pace. Mr. May stated he assumed residents may take that position, but that nobody had said that to him. The minutes of June 24 were amended without objection.

Mr. Weis' motion was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

There were no public hearing items.

PRESENTATIONS

**Dr. Saj Joy – MUSC
Charleston Division CEO,
MUSC Project Update**

Dr. Saj Joy provided an update on the MUSC building project ongoing near the Freshfields traffic circle.

Mr. Hamilton asked Dr. Joy where the main entrance would be located.

Dr. Joy stated there would be one traffic entrance to the facility. He stated it would be where the construction entrance currently is off Seabrook Island Road. Dr. Joy stated that traffic studies indicated that the existing entrance could accommodate the flow of traffic.

A resident asked if the facility had the capability to expand the medical offices at some point in the future.

Dr. Joy stated he would need to consult the project engineers and get back to the resident with an answer.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

REPORTS OF TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Community Promotions & Engagement Committee No report.

Environment & Wildlife Committee Mr. Weis stated the committee was still discussing the town's beach rules. He stated the committee was consulting Kiawah's beach rules as a reference for amending Seabrook Island's rules.

Recommendation to approve the awarding of a Community Promotion Grant to the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network in the amount of \$2,450.00.

Lauren Rust, representing the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network gave a brief presentation of her organization's grant request.

Mr. Hamilton motioned to approve the grant request in the amount of \$2,450.00, seconded by Mr. Weis.

Mr. Hamilton's motion was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Kleinman asked Ms. Rust if it would be helpful if the town were to prohibit swimming and wading in Captain Sam's Inlet.

Ms. Rust stated because of the tides and steep grade of the seafloor, swimming and wading in the inlet is unsafe. Ms. Rust closed by saying even though there are ordinances prohibiting swimming while dolphins are feeding, there will always be instances where humans are in the water at the same time dolphins are near the inlet. She stated prohibiting swimming will eliminate these inadvertent occurrences.

Public Safety Committee Mr. Kortvelesy provided a report of the Public Safety Committee's most recent meeting.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there had been a discussion amongst the committee regarding hiring off duty deputies to enforce traffic laws along Seabrook Island Road.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated he was waiting on data from the Charleston County Sherriff's Office before addressing the possibility of hiring extra law enforcement officers.

Utility Commission

Jim Ferland, SIUC Chair, provided an update on the commission's June finances.

Mr. Ferland stated that work on the water tower is complete. He also stated that repainting is complete.

Mr. Ferland stated that the pond project is on schedule.

Mr. Ferland closed by saying that the FY 2024 audit is complete. He stated the external auditing firm gave the utility commission a clean audit.

Mr. May asked if the cell companies that keep their antennas on the tower had informed the commission what equipment would be going back on the tower now that painting is complete.

Mr. Ferland stated the platform is much more structurally stable. He stated that T-Mobile is able to put newer equipment on the tower due to its increased stability.

Mr. May asked if the commission was operating at full strength.

Mr. Ferland stated they only have one opening.

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

Mayor

Mayor Kleinman stated that the town, SIPOA, and the Seabrook Island Club agreed to form a working group to improve cellular service on Seabrook Island.

Mayor Kleinman stated that the town's attorneys are currently working with the town to craft a property annexation ordinance. He stated that council would be convening a Special Called Meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked if there had been discussions with internet providers related to improving internet service on the island. He stated that areas around the county are being connected with fiber optic lines. He asked if Seabrook Island could also be one of those areas.

Mayor Kleinman stated that this working group was created specifically to address cellular service. He stated that he thought the internet issue was also important, but that this working group would likely not address internet connection or speed issues.

Town Administrator

Mr. Cronin recognized Nichole Nettles, the town's License and Permitting official. Mr. Cronin stated that Ms. Nettles recently passed an examination administered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina to receive her Accreditation in Business Licensing.

Mr. Cronin stated that he had begun conversations with a company from Florida to conduct a classification and compensation study. He stated the project will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Cronin stated the Finance Director position has been posted. He stated the town received 50 applications and that he is working to narrow the field of applicants.

Mr. Cronin stated that the public comment period, hosted by the SC Department of Environmental Services, is open for the Seabrook Island Road project.

Mr. Cronin stated that candidate filing for this fall's municipal election will be open soon. Mr. Cronin stated that interested candidates should fill out their declaration forms with Mr. Wiggins by 12:00 pm on September 5.

Mr. May asked Mr. Cronin to confirm that drainage improvements at the Seafields site were not being paid for by the town.

Mr. Cronin confirmed the town was not paying for those drainage improvements. He stated the reason the town sent out public notices related to those improvements was due to there being closures to the bike and pedestrian pathway.

Clerk/Treasurer

Mr. Wiggins gave an update on the town's May financials.

Zoning Administrator

Code Enforcement Summary: Mr. Newman provided an update of code enforcement and construction activities since the June meeting.

Beach Patrol Summary: Mr. Newman provided an update of beach patrol activities since the June meeting.

Mr. Hamilton commented that it appeared residents are being treated more unfairly than renters when the town's garbage can ordinance is being violated.

Mr. Cronin stated that it is actually the opposite. He stated that for renters, the 24-hour contact is notified of the violation, and if the garbage can is not removed within two hours, a code enforcement officer can issue an ordinance summons. He stated for similar violations by residents; there is not a similar two hour window.

Mr. Newman stated it was not the town's goal to pepper residents and visitors with garbage can citations.

**Communication & Events
Manager**

Ms. Grooms reminded members of the council that the final Chow Town is scheduled for August 6. She stated there is a fundraiser that is part of this Chow Town event. She stated funds raised will go toward Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

There were no Ordinances for Second Reading.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

There were no Ordinances for First Reading.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

There are no Other Action Items.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

LSV Operations

Mr. May stated that there were concerns related to enacting an ordinance that the town could not enforce. He stated the question is, does the council do anything when council does not have strong enforcement mechanisms. He closed by saying that it was his opinion that people generally want to follow rules and ordinances. It was for this reason he stated that if the town chose to prohibit LSV's on Seabrook Island Road from Landfall Way to the traffic circle, people would generally follow the new regulation.

Mr. May thanked Maryanne Connelly from SIPOA for her article on LSV safety in the latest edition of "Currents". He stated that he was unaware, and that renters are also unaware that all safety regulations that apply to vehicles also apply to LSV's, such as children being secured in child safety seats. Mr. May went on to say that per state statute, it was his opinion that the town could prohibit LSV's on Seabrook Island Road in the interest of safety.

Mayor Kleinman stated that unlike the prior meeting, council should be allowed to give their comments on what Mr. May just said.

Mr. Weis stated it was his opinion that a prohibition was not enough, and if the town wanted to prohibit LSV's, the speed limit should be raised to 36 or 40 miles per hour.

Mr. Cronin stated that the Charleston County Sheriff's Office cannot enforce ordinances that the town passes unless the county passes a similar ordinance, which they may or may not do. He stated that this does not apply to the Uniform Traffic Code. He stated that this is where raising the speed limit to 36 miles per hour or greater is a possibility. He closed by stating that ultimately, he would defer to the town's legal counsel.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated it was his opinion the true safety issue arises when a motorist pulls out of line to pass the LSV and the several vehicles who are traveling behind it. He further stated that absent of data, he was not equipped to make a policy decision.

Mr. Hamilton asked a question related to the nature of the LSV issue. Mr. Hamilton asked if it was a safety issue related to safety violations of the LSV, or if the issue was motorists being held up travelling between Seabrook Island and the traffic circle.

Mayor Kleinman stated he had received two emails as of the day of the council meeting, and they both were from the same person.

Mr. Wiggins stated the town had received ten comments from residents on the subject of LSV's as of the day of the meeting.

Mayor Kleinman stated that as of the day of the meeting, it didn't seem the LSV issue was an issue that residents were interested.

Maryanne Connelly stated that she gets a lot of feedback from residents claiming that SIPOA is not enforcing LSV regulations. She stated she personally feels that LSV's are a safety risk and SIPOA is planning a safety campaign to educate property owners and renters on state laws governing LSV's.

Following a brief discussion on the path forward for the LSV issue, Mayor Kleinman stated he thought the Public Safety Committee was properly positioned to begin to deliberate on the issue. Mayor Kleinman asked Mr. Cronin if the Public Safety Committee could host public forums to gather input on the LSV issue. Mr. Cronin stated that the committee could host forum(s).

Mr. Kortvelesy stated the committee should hear from a random sample of residents so that the committee doesn't hear from only one section of residents.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Susan McLaughlin

Susan McLaughlin addressed the council on the Urban Growth Boundary.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no Council Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kleinman declared the meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Peter D. Wiggins II, MPA
Clerk/Treasurer