

# TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council – Work Session

October 11, 2022

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## MINUTES

### Call to Order – Roll Call – Freedom of Information

Mayor Gregg called the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Town Council Work Session to order at 1:00PM. Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, Zoning Administrator Newman, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

#### Mayor John Gregg

- Appointment of Laurence Buchman to Seabrook Island Utility Commission

Mayor Gregg noted Mr. Buchman was proposed by the Chair of the Utility Commission to fill the vacancy that arose with resignation of Mr. Vancini. If the appointment is approved, Mr. Buchman will serve the remainder of Mr. Vancini's unexpired term, ending January 4, 2028.

Councilman Kortvelesy moved to appoint Laurence Buchman to the Utility Commission to fulfill Lee Vancini's unexpired term ending on January 4, 2028; Mayor Gregg seconded.

Council discussed some concerns regarding the Utility Commission including: each Commission member will now be appointed rather than elected as contemplated by the Town Code, and duration of terms of office of Commissioners. Members expressed support for undertaking a review of the applicable Town Code, acknowledging that any such review should involve counsel by the Town Attorney.

Council clarified with Commissioner Smith-Jones concerning the extent of interviews conducted of the candidates to fill the vacant Utility Commission seat, the cause for vacant seats, and the length of terms of office for members of the commission under SC State Law.

Using the original motion, a vote was taken on appointment to of Mr. Buchman to the Commission as follows:

Ayes: Fox, Goldstein, Kortvelesy, Mayor Gregg

Nays: Finke

**Mr. Buchmann was appointed to the Utility Commission to fulfill Lee Vancini's unexpired term ending on January 4, 2028.**

- Update of Hurricane Ian Damage Assessment

Mayor Gregg noted that on Saturday, October 1, members of Seabrook Island Community Emergency Response Team (“CERT”) took part in a so-called “windshield” survey of damage from Hurricane IAN. Seven teams of two toured roads within the Town to ensure that damage viewable from roads would be documented. Happily, no damage was reported by those teams.

Mayor Gregg added that on October 6, the Town received a report of damage sustained by Seabrook Island Club (downed trees, beach erosion, windscreen damage and missing/damaged shingles).

Mayor Gregg further noted that on October 11, the Town received a report of measures taken by SIUC in preparation for potential power outages; costs have not yet been provided to the Town. The Town reported all damage documented as of October 10 and the protective measures reported October 11 to Charleston County to be included in aggregation of damage reporting in support of requests for Federal relief funding.

- Update of Outreach to MUSC

Mayor Gregg summarized a discussion with Council about the Town considering donating to Medical University of South Carolina in support of the proposed facility to be constructed on Seabrook Island Road. Mayor Gregg added members expressed a desire to have a presentation from MUSC that could be made open to the public. Mayor Gregg reached out to Mr. Brian Panique in that regard, and he has suggested that Dr. Patrick Cawley, CEO of MUSC Health could make himself available for such a presentation.

#### **Town Council Members:**

- **Jeri Finke**

None.

- **Patricia Fox**

Councilwoman Fox summarized the communications report, and thanked staff for their assistance with the emergency communications during Hurricane Ian.

Councilwoman Fox reminded all the upcoming Charleston Symphony Orchestra performance on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at the lake house, and the upcoming Town Shredding Event on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Town Hall.

Councilwoman Fox noted the upcoming Community Promotions and Engagement Committee meeting on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

A discussion was had on when residents can anticipate the property owner survey from SIPOA as understood from the long-range planning meeting.

- **Barry Goldstein**

None.

- **Dan Kortvelesy**

Councilman Kortvelesy reminded all that at the upcoming Public Safety Committee Meeting a representative from the County Sheriff's Office will make a presentation on various safety topics.

Councilman Kortvelesy thanked members of the Disaster Recovery Council (DRC) for their work during Hurricane Ian and noted some email communications from the Town were in residents spam folder and working on a way to improve communications sent from the Town.

A discussion was had on sending out emergency advisory's through SIPOA's e-blast in addition to Mail Chimp.

### **Town Administrator Joe Cronin**

- Action Items for October 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- Ordinance 2022-05: An ordinance amending the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 26, Taxation; to amend provisions related to the administration of revenues from the State Accommodations Tax; to amend provisions related to the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee; to impose a Local Accommodations Tax of one percent (1%); and to implement the provisions of the S.C. "Fairness in Lodging Act"
- Ordinance 2022-06: An ordinance amending the Development Standards Ordinance for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Appendix E, Fee Schedule; so as to amend the fee schedule for various application and service fees

Town Administrator Cronin noted Ordinance 2022-05 and 2022-06 which are up for second reading and a public meeting at the upcoming Town Council meeting and briefly summarized each ordinance.

A discussion was had on how imposing a new Local Accommodations Tax of 1% will impact the reporting for property management companies who already have bookings for 2023.

Information items:

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council in respect of the myGov subscription services agreement for computer assisted administration of licensing, permitting, and related code enforcement, and the proposed timeline for implementation of the Town's myGov subscription.

Town Administrator Cronin noted that the Town has internally promoted Nichole Nettles to be the Short-Term Rental Compliance Officer. Ms. Nettles will continue to

serve as Administrative Assistant until the Town hires her replacement. Town Administrator Cronin added that Michael Williams was also promoted to the position of full-time code enforcement officer.

## **Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:44PM.

Date: October 14, 2022

Prepared by: *Katharine E. Watkins*  
Town Clerk/Treasurer