

Town of Seabrook Island
Ways and Means Committee Meeting
February 19, 2019
2:30 P.M.

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Ciancio called the meeting to order. Council members Gregg, Crane and Finke, Town Clerk Allbritton and Town Administrator Cronin attended the meeting. Mayor Ciancio led the pledge of allegiance and confirmed that the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

The Mayor said that he would introduce a motion at our next regular meeting to increase the amount of our Emergency Reserve Fund to two million dollars. He noted that the Town's Emergency Reserve Fund balance as of December 31, 2018, was \$1,861,670 and we would have to transfer \$138,330 from the General Fund to the Emergency Reserve Fund. The Mayor noted that, at two million dollars, the Emergency Reserve Fund would have increased almost \$750,000 from four years ago. He also remarked that our 2018 surplus of revenue over expenses was \$607,009.

The Mayor commented that council had allocated funds in the 2019 budget to hire a new auditor, effective for the 2018 audit. He noted that there was no objection to the performance of the current auditor; however, as a matter of good governance, he had thought it appropriate to replace the auditor on a periodic basis. He observed that the Utility Commission is required by its bond covenants to file a copy of the 2018 audit with the bond trustee by the end of June and, given the learning curve required of a new auditor, it would be impractical to replace the auditor at this time. Accordingly, the Town had renewed its contract with Glaser & Associates for the 2018 audit. He said it is still the Town's intent to issue an RFP for auditing services sometime this year so that we can have a firm in place for the 2019 audit so that SIUC would be able to comply with its bond covenants in a timely manner.

The Mayor reported that the mediation required as a result of the Atlantic Partners II appeal from the decision of the Planning Commission on Atlantic Partner's application for an encroachment permit has resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding for resolution of the dispute. He stated that over the past three weeks representatives of the Town have fleshed out a settlement agreement in accordance with the MOU and have tendered that agreement to the attorney representing Atlantic Partners.

Councilman Crane reported that he had met with Meses. Evans and Brown to discuss proposed revisions to the Town website. He and Lynn Crane were scheduled to meet later in the week to review the sections of the website dealing with the Town's

history and services. He informed council that he was also working on a policy on what could be posted on the Town's website.

Councilwoman Finke provided background information on her suggestion regarding an ordinance banning plastics and noted that the Town of Folly Beach had adopted the first relevant ordinance in 2017. Following passage of the ordinance, Folly experienced an eighty percent (80%) drop in single purpose plastic bags. She said that the primary impact of the Town's ban would be on the Seabrook Island Club but that the Club's House Committee was already moving in that direction. The Mayor asked Councilwoman Finke to set up meetings with representatives of both the Club and the Marina Merchants' Association and suggested he would like to attend the latter. The Mayor asked how the ban would impact beach goers, as the Town's ordinance prohibits glass containers on the beach. Councilwoman Finke answered that the proposed ordinance would not impact the use of STYROFOAM cups. Councilman Gregg asked how vendors at the marina who set up during the Billfish Tournament would be informed of the new ordinance.

Councilwoman Finke reported on the status of the litigation opposing seismic testing off the low country shores. She reported that the Mayor was being asked to provide a declaration in support of the plaintiffs' motion for injunction.

Councilwoman Finke led an extended discussion regarding the proposed timeshare ordinance. She noted that the POA's covenants already have a provision banning timeshares, but it has not been aggressively enforced. The Mayor poled the members of council as to what each perceives as the goal of the proposed ordinance, and it was clear that there was not unanimity. The Mayor suggested as a matter of policy, he was having difficult distinguishing between rentals (which we encourage) and timeshares we are seeking to ban. Councilwoman Finke noted that the Town collected a business license tax from rentals, but not timeshares.

Councilman Gregg reported that the Town had received a check in the amount of \$21,443.96 from FEMA for its share of the Town's expenses associated with Hurricane Florence. It is unclear whether the State will reimburse the Town for its share of the expenses. The Town has reimbursed the Utility Commission in the amount of \$9,723.05 for the expenses the Commission incurred.

He also reported that Charleston County Building Services had asked the Town for certain information in support of the Town's rating under the Community Rating System. Councilman Gregg said that he thought that the County already had most of the information requested and so notified the County. He identified the book on flooding issued annually by the Town, the Town's participation in Disaster Awareness Day and

Disaster Recovery Council hurricane training and exercise sessions as supplements to responsive information from Charleston County.

Town Administrator Cronin reported for Councilman Wells on the survey work the Town had requested on the centerline of Seabrook Island Road. That effort showed that between thirty (30) and thirty-five percent (35%) of Seabrook Island Road was below – in various degrees – the County’s minimum elevation requirement. At the Mayor’s request, the Town was in the process of obtaining estimates of (1) raising elevation of Seabrook Island Road to the County’s minimum level and (2) raising the road elevation to the level of the traffic circle, which is about six inches (6”) higher. The Mayor noted that in both instances the costs would be significant, and council would have to consider the time period to implement either alternative so that it could be paid for with free cash flow from the Town.

Mr. Cronin noted that AirMedCare Network had finally approved a definition of “covered individual” and reviewed the requirements for coverage under the agreement. He also reported that the Town’s Dolphin Education Program had been submitted to the Municipal Association of South Carolina for its Municipal Achievement Award. He stated that the Town had received a tree trimming proposal from Sunburst. While there was some question regarding the timing of such effort, the Town had authorized the work to proceed with the work being done by Arbor Care. This effort will result in a slight delay of the landscaping services RFP which will now go out in time to have a new contract for services in place by early September or late October. The Town Administrator reported on the updates to the Town’s zoning map. He noted that last year the Town had amended its ordinance to obviate the need for council to approve the zoning map on an annual basis, as each time there is a zoning change the effect is an amendment of the map.

The Town Administrator reviewed a number of items that will be on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled council meeting. He said that under the terms of the Town’s agreement with Island Beach Services, council would be asked to appoint a number of employees of IBS as Code Enforcement Officers. The Mayor asked that in advance of the meeting IBS be asked to confirm that it had conducted appropriate background checks for the subject employees and that the Town be provided brief resumes of each. Mr. Cronin distributed the proposed 2019 Marine Mammal Network Agreement for 2019 and pointed out the changes that had been incorporated in the agreement at the request of the Mayor. He reviewed for council the three rezoning requests on Greenspace properties. Lastly, he reported that the Town had received 11 bids for the Town’s Jeep. He will present the bids to council at the next regularly scheduled meeting in order of highest to lowest. The Town Administrator discussed the purchase of replacement vehicles. He noted in particular the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing new using the State’s contract as opposed to a two or

three year old vehicle. He also noted the differences between the Nissan Frontier and the Chevrolet Colorado.

Upon conclusion of the Town Administrator's comments, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Crane, seconded by Councilman Gregg and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



Town Clerk

Date: February 26, 2019