

**TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING
March 9, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The March 9, 2021 Ways and Means Committee meeting was conducted as a video conference using Zoom and was simultaneously made available to the public via YouTube live stream and by conference call, all in keeping with practices adopted to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Mayor Gregg, Councilmembers Crane, Finke, Fox and Goldstein, Town Clerk Allbritton and Town Administrator Cronin participated in the meeting. Mayor Gregg confirmed with the Town Clerk that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act were met.

Mayor John Gregg

- **Update on rezoning request for 4455 Betsy Kerrison Parkway (Charleston County Planning Commission meeting of March 8)** – Mayor Gregg reported that, at the March 8 Charleston County Planning Commission meeting, the Commission voted to deny the requested rezoning of the parcel located at 4455 Betsy Kerrison Parkway from R-4 (residential 4 dwelling units/acre) to PD-178 (planned development). The requested zoning change will be on the agenda for the Charleston County Council meeting on April 13.
- **Charleston County Rural Vaccination Program** – No Update
- **Mark Clark Extension Update**- Mayor Gregg stated that it was reported, at the March 3 Johns Island Task Force meeting, that planned public outreach relating to proposed alternatives for the Mark Clark Extension is expected to begin in August 2021. Information about the alternatives is available at the SC Department of Transportation website for the Mark Clark Extension (scdotmarkclark.com).
- **Proposed Initiative by the Towns of Kiawah and Seabrook Island Concerning Johns Island Roads** – Mayor Gregg reported that he and the Town Administrator attended a presentation on Friday, March 5, relating to proposed alternative road improvements on Johns Island. Last fall, Charleston County invited public comment concerning alternative proposals for Segment C of the Main Road Corridor, an area bounded by the intersections of Bohicket Road and River Road with Maybank Highway to the intersection of River Road with Betsy Kerrison Parkway. Of six alternatives, Alternative 3 contemplates a new cross-island road extending from a location near the intersection of River Road and Betsy Kerrison Parkway to an intersection with River Road north of Plow Ground Road. The presentation included analyses of impacts on traffic on Main, River and Bohicket Roads that would result from such a new road. The Town of Kiawah has proposed meeting with a member of the Charleston County Public Works staff to better understand the present opportunity to support Alternative 3 and steps the Towns might pursue in that regard.
- **Emergency Ordinance 2021- 01 Revision** – Mayor Gregg reported that, in view of recent actions by the Governor, it will be necessary to revise Emergency Ordinance 2021-01 to align with limitations under the Governor’s Executive Orders 2021-11 and 2021-12, particularly as it pertains to requirements for wearing face coverings within the Town. The Mayor asked the Town Administrator to develop revisions to Emergency Ordinance 2021-01

that are consistent with the express limitations of the Governor's Executive Orders 2021-11 and 2021-12. The revised Emergency Ordinance will be taken up at the March Town Council meeting.

Town Councilmembers:

Skip Crane –

Public Safety Committee – Councilman Crane stated that the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m. The Committee continued to review the action items in the Disaster Recovery Council exercise summary. He reported that there will be a DRC exercise in June using the hurricane scenario. The Committee is also currently working on updates to the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Plan.

Councilman Crane stated that, due to the pandemic, the Town Administrator has been working on a format for Disaster Awareness Day which would involve setting up vendor booths outside. There would be no food, presentations nor panel discussions. The event would be held in June and Kiawah has been asked to participate.

At the Public Safety Committee's recommendation, the Town Administrator has been working on an ordinance that would regulate town-wide leash requirements for dogs. The ordinance would amend Town Code, Chapter 18, Article 2, and would create a new section, Section 18-26. The ordinance, which will be on the March Town Council agenda for first reading, would pertain to all areas of the Town, except for the beach.

DSO Advisory Committee – Councilman Crane reported that there has been no further action by the DSO Advisory Committee since his report last month. The Town Administrator added that, due to a question from the Mayor regarding the maximum building height under the new FEMA flood maps, he had a discussion with Paul LeBlanc, the Town's consultant. As a result, the draft language in the DSO was modified to make permanent the provision that had been adopted in 2020 that would allow property owners to use the prior FEMA flood maps for the purpose of determining building height if the prior base flood elevation were higher than the base flood elevation on the current FEMA flood maps.

Once the public draft of the DSO is ready, there will be citizen participation. After comments are received and there is a first reading draft, it will go to the Planning Commission. Once approved by the Planning Commission, it will go to Town Council for two readings and a public hearing. The Town Administrator added that, since there were changes to the zoning districts, the Town would be required to have a new zoning map to accompany the new DSO.

Jeri Finke –

Possibility of having a special called meeting to consider outstanding temporary use permit requests

– Councilwoman Finke suggested that Council might want to consider having a special meeting to address pending Temporary Use Permits – two permits for Bohicket Marina (Billfish Tournament and Dolphin Slam), the Sea Island Chamber Art Walk and a possible event for the Seabrook Island Club. Since the Art Walk is scheduled for April 2, Council decided to hold a special meeting on Friday, March 12, at 10:00 a.m. If representatives for Bohicket Marina are not available for that meeting, their applications can be taken up at the March Town Council meeting.

Patricia Fox – Councilwoman Fox reported on the Town’s recent communications efforts which included an article in The Seabrooker by Councilwoman Finke that addressed various issues Council addressed during 2020. She reported that topics included in publications on Tidelines included:

- the Bob Cat Guardian Program
- announcing the new owners of Bohicket Marina,
- recognition of the Town Clerk’s 25 years of service,
- the rezoning request for 4455 Betsy Kerrison Parkway,
- Community Promotion Grants and
- TOSI Clips from the Town Council meeting.

The Town Administrator has also updated the Dolphin Education Program on the Town website.

Councilwoman Fox thanked Town Administrator Cronin for his tweet recognizing the “women of the Town” on February 8 for International Women’s Day.

Town Administrator Cronin reported that he had received an application for a Community Promotion Grant from Seabrook Island Village, Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Barry Goldstein – Councilman Goldstein stated that he had received the bike path report from ESP, Inc. but he and the Town Administrator had submitted questions and comments that need to be addressed by ESP before sharing it with Council. He and the Town Administrator have also received the roadway report, but they have not had a chance to review the report.

Town Administrator Joe Cronin

Action Items

- **Extension of Emergency Ordinance 2021-01** – The Town Administrator asked for guidance from Council on how face coverings and large gathering provisions in the new emergency ordinance should be handled. He suggested that, if we move away from restrictions on gatherings, as in the Governor’s Order, the temporary use provisions for certain events, could possibly be relaxed so that they could be approved by staff rather than Town Council. Mayor Gregg stated that, according to Executive Order 2021-11, it was no longer required that large gatherings had to be approved by the Department of Commerce, but it was encouraged. He also stated that, if our Emergency Ordinance has the “last call” provision, it must be eliminated. The Town Administrator asked about masks on board walks. The Mayor stated that he felt this should no longer be required but could be encouraged. Wearing masks in a business establishment would also have to be limited to the recitation in the Governor’s Executive Order and that wording could be used in the Town’s Emergency Ordinance. Councilwoman Finke stated that her position was that the Town’s emergency ordinance should be as strict as possible while following the Governor’s guidelines.

Items for Information/Discussion

- **Beach Patrol Contract Update** – Town Administrator Cronin reported that he had met with representatives from Island Beach Services to discuss their bid for beach patrol services, which amounted to \$185,000, to see if there was any way to reduce the price without cutting

the level of service and there was not. Their only suggestion was to move toward a change in cost from year to year. The first two years might go down a bit but years three, four and five would likely go up. The Town Administrator commented that Island Beach Services' intent with the current contract is not to raise the price during the three one-year renewal periods. Mayor Gregg indicated that he thought the Town should proceed with the current agreement and pricing and Council agreed.

- **Status of Town Clerk/Treasurer Position** – The Town Administrator reported that he had begun advertising the Town Clerk/Treasurer position that will be vacant at the end of June. The position is being advertised on the Town website, the SC Municipal Association job board, the Association of Counties job board and Indeed. He added that he has received 12-15 applications so far. The current schedule anticipates first review of applications will be March 29. It is his intention to make an offer in mid to late April and would like to have a person hired and in the office by mid-May.
- **Beautification and Sign Upgrades on Seabrook Island Road** – The Town Administrator stated that he plans to have the main sign at the traffic circle painted before the PGA Championship. He is also getting estimates from Sunburst Landscaping for adding more flower beds, possibly in the area near the entrance to Bohicket Marina and near the bench in front of Town Hall.
- **Fourth of July Fireworks** – Town Administrator Cronin reported that East Coast Pyrotechnics would like an idea by April if the Town will go forward with the July fireworks display. The fireworks display was cancelled last year, but the Town had already paid the 50% deposit. Mayor Gregg stated that there had been an informal discussion about the community having a celebration for the end of the pandemic, but it is uncertain when a good time would be to have that. After discussion, the Town Administrator said he would follow up with the Club and the Property Owners Association to get their thoughts. He also will follow up with East Coast Pyrotechnics to see what the options are in case the Town felt that the display should be postponed until later in the year or next year.
- **Miscellaneous** – The Town Administrator reported that the Town has received:
 - 1 application for a Community Promotion Grant,
 - 13 Bob Cat Pledges from pest control companies, and
 - 94 Short-Term Rental Permit Applications that have been processed and 40-50 in the process of completion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



Town Clerk

Date: March 23, 2021