

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

After the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Ciancio called the meeting to order. Town Clerk Allbritton confirmed that the agenda for the meeting had been properly posted and the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act otherwise complied with. Council members Gregg, Crane, Finke and Wells, Town Clerk Allbritton and Town Administrator Cronin attended the meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the petition requesting modification of the beach ordinance which was received at our last regularly scheduled meeting. The Mayor noted that there is no provision in our ordinance to govern the process that should be followed in situations like this. The Mayor had distributed to council members a memorandum providing (1) a synopsis of the history behind the Town's beach ordinance, particularly as it relates to the POA's ability to obtain relevant permits for the periodic relocation of Cap'n Sams Inlet which is obviously necessary to maintain our beach, and (2) information as to how the Town's ordinance compares with the rules and regulations of other communities in the South Carolina Beach Advocacy Group. He noted that the Town had asked the Beach Patrol to begin a count of visitors to our beach by day and hour, and that it had been suggested that we take a community survey and get a sense of how people feel about the proposals in the petition. Councilman Wells quoted provisions of the Towns' Beach Management Plan as it related to the beach ordinance and permitting issues. Councilwoman Finke noted that portions of the Town's beach had been declared a "critical habitat for the piping plover and loggerhead turtle, which in turn, required that the US Fish & Wildlife Service be made party to any permit application. She also noted that the Seabrook Island birder organization would have an interest in the beach ordinance. Councilman Gregg noted the importance of requiring that the ordinance's "summer months" provisions cover the period of migration of both the plover and the red knot shorebirds. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that among other things, the Town would (1) receive input from relevant organizations in the community such as the Sea Dogs and birders on an individual basis rather than an open hearing, (2) reach out to both the Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service for their perspective on the Petitioners proposal, (3) open up the Town's webpage for comment and (4) continue with the head count on the beach.

Councilman Crane reported on the progress being made on the revisions to the Town's website and stated that the project was on target for completion by the end of this month.

Councilwoman Finke reported on the status of the litigation challenging the National Marine Fisheries authorization for seismic air gun testing in the Atlantic Ocean instituted by the South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) in which the Town is participating as a named plaintiff. Ms. Finke noted that procedural motions had been filed by SCELP which is now waiting for a response. Ms. Finke brought several examples of materials which could be used in lieu of Styrofoam plates and cups. She said that legislation had been introduced in the South Carolina senate which, if passed, would preempt the ability of local municipalities to institute bans on single use plastic bags. She urged council to take action in advance of such legislation. Ms. Finke reported that she had been in contact with the Seabrook Island Club with respect to her proposal but had been unsuccessful in reaching anyone at Bohicket Marina. A question was raised as to the proposed ordinance's application to Camp St. Christopher. The Mayor directed Ms. Finke to work with the Town Administrator to develop a resolution for next week's

meeting the purpose of which would be to evidence a sense of council as to its intent to implement a ban on single use plastic bags and straws and said that he would instruct the Town's attorney to prepare an ordinance for council's review.

Town Administrator Cronin reported that he had instructed G. Robert George to prepare the required documentation to allow the Town to apply to Charleston County for reimbursement of certain costs incurred in connection with the Seabrook Island Drainage Projected. Councilman Wells also noted that the Town Administrator would be the point person for the work currently being done by ESP.

Councilman Gregg stated that he had scheduled a meeting of the Disaster Recovery Council for the morning of April 12<sup>th</sup> and that this year's Disaster Awareness Day would be hosted by the Town on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Town Administrator Cronin reported that the Town had won the Municipal Association's Achievement Award for its Dolphin Education program. The award will be presented to the Town at the Association's annual meeting to be held in Greenville this August. The Municipal Association will be on Seabrook Island in July to film our beach.

The Town Administrator said that the Beach Patrol had begun its work on the beach and would have coverage each weekend in March. It would increase its coverage beginning the end of March and have four personnel and extended hours beginning at the end of May.

The Town Administrator said that he had completed the purchase of both a Chevrolet Tahoe and a Chevrolet Colorado. He noted that the vehicles were purchased locally through Crews Chevrolet of North Charleston, which was not only able to beat the state fleet price but provided an upgrade on the Tahoe. He reported that he had completed the sale of the Town's jeep for \$6,101, was preparing to "surplus" the existing Tahoe and would ask for authority to do so at council's April meeting.

The Town Administrator reported that he was in the process of preparing a freedom of information policy and related fee schedule for the Town and that he hoped to present it to council at the April meeting.

Mr. Cronin noted that the Town's shredding events would take place on April 5<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. Shed360 had been retained to conduct the two events.

Mr. Cronin said that three ordinances would be up for second reading at the March regular meeting. Each would rezone property from Single-Family Residential District to Agricultural-Conservation District. Each of the three parcels had been purchased by Greenspace and donated to the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association. Mr. Cronin noted that an objection to the proposed rezoning had been received with respect to the 2906 Seabrook Island Road parcel and that he would try to contact the objector.

The projects and tasks identified by council as priorities at the strategic planning session had been circulated before the meeting. The Town Administrator reviewed the material and assigned responsibility for completion to various council members. The Town Administrator will present a resolution to adopt the strategic priorities for council to act on at the next meeting. He will also propose the names of additional individuals to be appointed as Code Enforcement Officers at the next meeting.

The Town Administrator presented for council's review an application on behalf of Bohicket Marina Investors for a temporary use permit to allow installation of a temporary stage and signage for the 2019 Governor's Invitational Billfish Tournament. Installation would take place prior to the Dolphin Slam on April 27<sup>th</sup> and remain up until after the conclusion of both events, although the stage would not be used in the interval between the two events. He noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed and recommended approval of the request which will be presented to council at the next meeting.

The Town Administrator presented for council's review a proposed scope of work presented by Paul LeBlanc of the PLB Planning Group for a review and revision of the Town's Development Standards Ordinance. He noted that the work is anticipated to be completed over the course of a two-year period and would include an audit of the current regulations, targeted interviews and user-group discussions. The fee to be paid on a monthly basis over a two-year period is \$86,100 including reimbursable expenses. The Mayor is in the process of appointing a steering committee to work with the consultant.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Date: March 26, 2019



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Town Clerk