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

Mayor Ciancio said that he and Councilman Wells had met during the prior week with representatives of the owner of properties adjacent to Seabrook Island Road to discuss the potential development of those properties. The Mayor indicated that the plans for a parcel on the south side of Seabrook Island Road near the “traffic circle” includes a retirement community with independent, assisted living and memory care units and plans for a parcel on the north side of Seabrook Island Road, adjacent to Lulu’s, contemplate an emergency medical facility. The Mayor said that he and Councilman Wells conveyed to the representatives the Town concerns regarding the impact of both additional traffic and storm water runoff. While both parcels are outside of the Town’s jurisdictional limits, the owner of the property in question will need the Town’s permission for access to Seabrook Island Road. The Mayor explained that the Town’s encroachment ordinance empowered the Town to request studies of the developments’ impact on traffic and storm water runoff.

Councilman Gregg reported on the request made by the Town to FEMA for public assistance relating to reimbursement of expenses incurred by both the Seabrook Island Utility Commission (rental expense for emergency generators) and the Town (evacuation expenses, storm panel installation and debris removal) in connection with Hurricane Irma. Councilman Gregg stated that the Town has been asked to enter into a State and Subrecipient Public Assistance Funding Agreement and provided council with a summary of the relevant provisions of the agreement, copies of which had been previously provided to council.

Councilman Gregg stated that he has received cost estimates for refrigerator magnets which would provide information on emergency telephone numbers for the Town, POA security and other relevant emergency contacts. The Town can obtain 2500 magnets for a cost of $1,257.57, which includes shipping. Councilwoman Finke noted that most new refrigerators are either stainless steel or cabinet faced, neither of which would hold a magnet. Councilman Crane indicated that the use of the magnets would be principally for rental units. Councilman Gregg said that he had intended for distribution of the magnets during the Disaster Awareness day exercises scheduled for June 13th. The Mayor asked for councilmembers to consider the quantity the Town should order and a decision would be made at the next council meeting.

Councilman Crane reported that he and Town Administrator Cronin had been working on a proposed revision of the Town’s website. Town Administrator Cronin demonstrated examples of the proposed revisions which were intended to make the site more usable and
informative for the Town’s residents. It was noted that the site was originally designed to be a “portal” to the POA and Club websites but that need was obviated by reason of those organizations development of a common landing page. The Town Administrator also noted that the “http” designation would have to be changed to “https” by July 1st otherwise Google Chrome would indicate that the site is not secure. The Mayor thanked the Town Administrator for his efforts and asked that he and Councilman Crane arrange for meetings with individual council members to obtain their comments and suggestions regarding the proposed website revisions.

Councilman Crane then suggested that the Town consider developing a branding image which could be something other than the Town’s seal. The Mayor noted that, several years ago, the Town, POA and Club had all participated in a joint branding effort and the Town should not dilute that attempt. After a significant discussion, it was agreed that the Town would continue to use its seal / logo as its brand identification with a double circle and a consistent blue color. The Mayor said he wanted to examine whether there were any legal limitations regarding the Town’s adoption of its “seal” at the time of its incorporation.

Councilman Wells reported that the first publication of the Request for Proposal for the first construction phase of the Seabrook Island Road Project is scheduled for this Sunday in the Post & Courier. He provided a brief description of the work covered by the RFP. He anticipates that the actual work will start around the end of May. Mayor Ciancio asked Councilman Wells to make sure the effort was sufficiently publicized to ensure that residents would be aware of the potential disruption of traffic. Councilman Wells also discussed the dolphin awareness program and reported that a draft contract with Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network had been prepared and sent to the Town’s attorney for review. He hopes the project can get underway around the first week of April.

Town Administrator Cronin offered a reminder that residents will be able to use the shredding equipment which will be at Town Hall on March 30th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Town Administrator provided an update on the status of the Town’s purchase of Surface Pro tablets to replace the iPad tablets currently used by council. He noted that the Town could either purchase ($1,499.00) or lease them from VC3 at $177.45 per month. The Town would also have to substitute the Surface Pro tablets for the iPad tablets on the Town’s Verizon data plan. He also reported that the Beach Patrol contract had been signed and that patrol members will be on the beach starting April 1st. The Mayor asked that information be published in Tidelines so that residents will be aware of the fact that the patrol will be on the beach.

The Town Administrator indicated that he had received a request from the Property Owners Association for use of the Town Hall parking lot for its annual yard sale. He reviewed the Town’s Ordinance governing permits for rallies and demonstrations which would technically cover this event under the ordinance’s definition of “rally” and the Town’s policy regarding the use of Town Hall. He suggested that the policy would have to be amended to include the use of the Town Hall grounds as well as Town Hall itself. He advised council that he would propose an
amendment of the Town’s ordinance at next week’s regularly scheduled council meeting to cover such uses as the yard sale.

Finally, the Town Administrator indicated that he had been unable to contact BCD Council of Governments to request its assistance in the preparation of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. He indicated that the Planning Commission, which is responsible for updating the Comprehensive Plan, had asked for a kick-off meeting with council to obtain council’s input on the plan and on the process for the development of the plan. The Mayor suggested a meeting be scheduled for early April so that the process is able to get off to an early start.

The Mayor noted his concern regarding property owners renting properties without obtaining business licenses from the Town and indicated his desire to address the issue. He referred to actions by Kiawah concerning the issue and proposed that the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association Rules and Regulations be reviewed for regulation of property rentals.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Date: March 27, 2018

Faye Allbritton, Town Clerk