

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Ways and Means Committee Meeting Agenda

August 10th, 2021 1:00PM Virtual



MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance – Roll Call – Freedom of Information

The August 10, 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 Finke, Fox, and Goldstein, Town Clerk Watkins 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.

2. Mayor John Gregg

- Comment concerning temporary closure of Town Hall

Mayor Gregg informed all Town Hall was closed August 5th and 6th due to a positive coronavirus test result of a member of Town staff the week of August 2. As a precautionary measure and to allow for cleaning after re-opening Town Hall, it was determined that the August Ways and Means meeting would be conducted virtually. It is expected that Town Council will resume in-person meetings with the August Council meeting.

- Discussion on the pursuit of land lease for additional debris site (parcel across Kiawah Island Parkway from entrance to parcel behind Freshfields Village (so-called Andell Tract))

Mayor Gregg reminded Council that during July Ways and Means meeting he reported preliminary approval by SC DHEC of the Town's debris site (pasture at the Club's Equestrian Center). In response to a recent inquiry concerning the debris site at the Andell Tract (parcel behind Freshfields Village), an alternative site has been offered for the Town's use. The alternative site is a parcel across Kiawah Island Parkway from the entrance to the Andell Tract from Kiawah Island Parkway. He added that he is working with a representative of the owners of the alternative site to arrange a land lease for the Town's use of the site for temporary debris storage and reduction.

- Reminder concerning filing for 2021 election and comment concerning date for local "remote" absentee voting

Mayor Gregg commented that filing is due during August by those wishing to run for election/re-election to Town Council. He encouraged members of Council to seek re-election. Further, as Council currently has an open seat, he encouraged members to reach out to persons they consider to be well suited to serve on Council. He will be pleased to offer his encouragement to any persons that members identify as potential candidates. Mayor Gregg also reminded Council the term of Utility Commissioner Vancini expires this year and was informed by the Chair of the Utility Commission that Mr. Vancini is expecting to run for re-election this year.

- Comment concerning CDC guidance for wearing face coverings indoors in public spaces and for eligible persons to be vaccinated against coronavirus

Mayor Gregg noted that on July 27 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued revised guidance that includes the recommendation that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. As of that date, information from the CDC reflected that Charleston County had a “high” or “substantial” transmission rate. In consequence of the CDC guidance, on August 2 a requirement for wearing face coverings while inside Town Hall was implemented for all Town staff and visitors.

- Comment concerning participation with Town of Kiawah Island in potential advocacy for improvements of roads on Johns Island

Mayor Gregg informed Council that the Town of Kiawah Island has invited the Town to participate in cooperative advocacy for improvements for Johns Island roads. Of particular interest is the pending study of alternatives for improvements affecting safety and congestion on Bohicket Road between Maybank Highway and Betsy Kerrison Parkway (that portion of Bohicket Road is referred to as “Segment C” by Charleston County Public Works). Charleston County Public Works identified five alternatives for improvements, including widening of Bohicket, widening of River Road, a new road, widening of Bohicket together with addition of a new road, and widening of Bohicket, River and Plow Ground. The public comment period for the alternatives closed in December 2020 and to date, a final selection has not been announced. The Towns joined in statements previously made on behalf of the Johns Island Task Force concerning improvements to Johns Island roads.

- Follow-up discussion on Beach Fishing

Mayor Gregg reminded Council of the discussion during the July Council meeting of safety concerns expressed by residents regarding fishing from the Town’s beach. In consequence of that discussion, the Town Administrator was asked to inform the Town’s beach patrol provider to affirmatively enforce the Town’s applicable ordinance with the understanding that no preference is to be given to fishers who were in an area in advance of the arrival of swimmers or other users of the beach. On July 31, the Mayor received an email from a resident commented on that discussion and expressing recommendations for Council as it considers changes to the Town’s ordinance. That email has been provided to members of Council and they are encouraged to review the

recommendations in preparation for future consideration of the sufficiency of the Town's current regulation of fishing.

3. Town Council Members:

a. Jeri Finke

Councilwoman Finke updated Council on the recent meeting with Beach Patrol and Town Administrator Cronin regarding the fishing complaints and clarified the Town's fishing ordinance.

Council discussed the status of the application for a Community Promotions grant by Greenspace and the next steps.

b. Patricia Fox

Councilwoman Fox updated Council on the communications sent out last month as follows:

- The Seabrooker posted the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meeting notices and had an article about welcoming the new Town Clerk/Treasurer.
- Tidelines posted all meeting notices, the updates on Town Hall with regards to masks and closures, and posted the mid-summer Hurricane checklist for residents.

c. Barry Goldstien

Councilman Goldstein updated Council on the Public Safety Meeting from August 9th as follows:

- Followed up with CERT for an island wide survey to see which individuals have skill sets (contractor, plumbing, etc.) and maintain that list if there was a natural disaster but discussed that this would not be feasible to maintain a list like this. They discussed creating a survey for residents who have generators and would allow CERT to use the generator during an emergency event.
- Discussed the pros and cons of the emergency training exercise.
- Discussed the public safety issue of fishing and recommended increased beach patrol enforcement and next year making small handouts for distribution to beach goers with all the beach rules and regulations.

4. Town Administrator Joe Cronin

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the upcoming Planning Commission Meeting on August 11th which will discuss the rezoning of 2517 Pelican Perch, which will be up for first reading for Council during the August Town Council Meeting.

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the status of the on-call debris monitoring contract which should have a start date of September 1st. He also updated Council on the status of the annual renewal for the debris removal contract.

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the results of the previous BZA meeting which denied a variance request.

Town Administrator Cronin reminded Council of the upcoming pre-budget meeting for Fiscal Year 2022 on August 17th at 1:00PM, which should be back to being a hybrid meeting, and for the DSO "Open House" on August 23rd from 2:00-4:00PM which will be a hybrid meeting. If these meetings change, the Town will notify all of the change. He also added the inbound pathway repairs should start within the next 7 to 10 days.

Council clarified the time of the DSO "Open House", the status of the signs being replaced on Seabrook Island Road, and the timeline for the PGA cut to be removed.

5. **Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:32PM.

Date August 11th, 2021

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