



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday, November 7, 2023 - 3:00 PM Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Perry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Invocation

Pastor June Wilkins delivered the invocation.

Adoption of the Agenda

Ames moved to approve. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023

Ames moved to approve, Alfred seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Report of the Town Manager

Orlando introduced Mr. Thomas Boxley, Executive Director of the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation and welcomed him to the Town. As Executive Director, Boxley will focus on revitalizing our neighborhoods while preserving our cultural heritage. He will work on improving housing, supporting local businesses, and securing funding for community projects. Orlando expressed confidence that Boxley will lead the Town's historic neighborhoods into a vibrant future and looks forward to his contributions.

Hilton Head Island Oyster Month Proclamation - Mayor Alan Perry

Mayor Perry presented the proclamation to the following people: Andrew Carmines, Hudson's Seafood on the Docks; Barbara Bryan-Russell, granddaughter of the late Eddie Bryan; Richard Mitchell; Rex Garniewicz, Coastal Discovery Museum; Jean Fruh, Executive Director of the Outside Foundation, along with JC McCune and Brittany Willard of Outside Hilton Head; Ray Craver, Island Recreation Association Board President along with Leah Arnold, Director, and Coordinator of Hilton Head Oyster Festival; and Tom Barnwell, Hilton Head Fishing Co-op. He thanked them for attending and for their many contributions to the oyster industry. Barnwell made comments regarding the Hilton Head Fishing Co-Op and the effort made to ensure our

waterways remained unpolluted. He noted there is still more to be done in the historic neighborhoods to promote business.

Marketing & Communications Quarterly Update - Andrew Davis - Director of Marketing and Communications

Davis updated Council on recent events, activities and future plans regarding the Communications Department.

Community Development Update - Shawn Colin - Assistant Town Manager, Community Development

Colin provided an update regarding activities the Community Development Department has been engaged in, the accomplishments completed to date and scheduled to be completed in the near future.

General Reports from Town Council

Brison congratulated Christ Lutheran Church on their 50th anniversary and stated she was happy to be present for the celebration. In addition, she noted the *Crescendo* is fantastic and is still going on and encouraged all to attend future planned events. She concluded by reading a poem she wrote regarding the *Crescendo* past, present and future events.

Ames congratulated staff and thanked them for the *Carolina Parakeet Project* at Lowcountry Celebration Park. He stated with that in mind, the community should be mindful and do their part individually and collectively to extend the habitat of the natural world.

Becker congratulated all involved in the recent Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival, which she felt was a tremendous success which benefits the community.

Report of the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study – Glenn Stanford

Stanford reported that at the recent meeting, a discussion took place regarding improving the flow of traffic on SC 170. He noted the enormous growth in the area, and they are trying to promote a better flow of traffic.

Report of the Lowcountry Council of Governments – Tammy Becker

No report.

Report of the Beaufort County Airports Board – David Ames

Ames announced the Beaufort County Airports Board will be meeting on Thursday, November 9 to conduct a groundbreaking for the terminal expansion. He noted the public is invited to attend.

Report of the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board – Glenn Stanford

Stanford reported the Board met and reviewed upcoming agenda items and issues to deal with for future meetings. They will prioritize the issues and items in moving forward.

Report of the Island Recreation Association Board – Alex Brown

No report.

Report of the Community Services and Public Safety Committee – Tammy Becker

Becker reported the Committee will be meeting Monday, November 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Report of the Public Planning Committee – David Ames

Ames reported the Committee will meet on Thursday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Report of the Finance and Administrative Committee – Alex Brown

Brown reported the Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Appearance by Citizens

Gray Smith addressed Town council regarding the initial public meeting of the US 278 Corridor Traffic Advisory Committee and his dissatisfaction with how the consultant was being dealt with. He requested that at future meetings the public be given the opportunity to voice their questions, opinions and concerns.

Alan Wolf addressed Council on behalf of the Coastal Community Development Corporation. He provided an update regarding funds, properties and funding sources for the corporation and stated they will be extending invitations to all Council members who care to join them in their evaluation process. He encouraged Council to find a path in granting the requested funds so they can continue to make an impact.

Richard Bisi addressed Council informing them that Hilton Head Island has the final say regarding the bridge expansion. He stated the bridge should not be accepted as a done deal and encouraged transparency at future meetings regarding such. He expressed his concerns that the Mayor and Town staff are trying to control the independent study.

Sandy West addressed Council voicing her appreciation of the framework developed and adopted regarding the housing crisis. She expressed her disappointment that the Coastal Community Development Corporation request for \$600,000 has not been addressed. She encouraged Council to move it forward.

Daniel Anthony addressed Council regarding the Executive Session item regarding Jonesville Road. He encouraged them to do what is in the best interests of Jonesville

Road.

Alex Cruden addressed Council and expressed appreciation for the recent work done on the pickleball courts on Adrianna Lane.

Workshop Items

Receipt and Discussion of a Recommendation from the Town of Hilton Head Island Accommodations Tax Committee for 2024 Grants - Jim Fluker, Chair of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Josh Gruber explained the intent of this item is to present the information to Council at this meeting with a goal of the item coming back to the next scheduled meeting to have discussion and action regarding the recommendations. He proceeded to invite Jim Fluker to address Council.

Jim Fluker, Chair of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC) conducted a review of the recommendations. He explained the Committee held multiple meetings and also with individual applicants to review the requests. He referenced the detailed report included in the agenda packet and explained there were twenty-seven groups that received full funding recommendations, seven groups that received partial funding recommendations and three groups received no funding recommendations. Fluker explained the reasoning for the partial funding and denial of funding, noting the decisions were based on the South Carolina Tourism Expenditure Review Committee (TERC) guidelines. He noted the Committee encouraged all applicants to be very precise on how they presented their budgets and calculations regarding tourism and stated they made recommendations based on the budget and tourism information as provided by the applicant.

Fluker stated that ATAC would have no objection to this Council overriding the recommendations if it could be shown that there is a need for it. He emphasized they made their decision based on what they have been provided to the Committee for review and thanked Council for placing trust in the Committee to make recommendations following a thorough review and in-depth interviews of each applicant.

Members of Council proceeded to discuss, ask questions, and make comments regarding the Committee recommendations.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the Fire Rescue Strategic Plan – Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief

Chief Blankenship reviewed details regarding the following:

Importance of a Strategic Plan

Outlines challenges and opportunities for the organization.

Allows Fire Rescue to be proactive, rather than reactive.

Provides an opportunity for the community to collaborate with Fire Rescue personnel.
Aligns with our commitment to continuous improvement as part of the CPSE accreditation model.

Strategic Planning Process

Process occurred between April and June of 2023.

External Stakeholder Feedback

Community members had the option to complete an online survey or participate in one of two in-person sessions.

Participants were asked questions related to expectations, concerns, service priorities, and additional comments.

86 total responses from community members.

Internal Stakeholder Feedback

An online survey was sent to all Fire Rescue personnel with questions related to expectations, concerns, and areas for Fire Rescue to focus on over the next three years. Received 50 responses from internal personnel.

Staffing Goal: Create an appropriate staffing model to fulfill the needs of Fire Rescue and best serve the community.

Evaluate current staffing model based on community risk and historical data.

Identify recruitment and retention challenges.

Develop an appropriate staffing model.

Implement and evaluate a new staffing model to ensure the needs of Fire Rescue and the community are met.

Development Goal: Enhance personal growth and professional development to improve service delivery to the community.

Analyze the effectiveness of developmental programs and strategies.

Develop and enhance programs to meet identified needs.

Implement and evaluate programs to foster growth and development within Fire Rescue.

Community Outreach Goal: Maximize community outreach through the enhancement of programs and partnerships.

Analyze current community outreach programs and partnerships for effectiveness.

Develop new partnerships to enhance the capabilities of reaching our community. Implement new programs and evaluate those programs and partnerships.

Becker noted the CSPSC reviewed the plan at their last meeting with a

recommendation for approval from Town Council. Following discussion, questions, and comments from Council, **Becker moved to approve. Alfred seconded Motion carried 7-0.**

Consideration of 2024 Meeting Schedules for Town Council, Community Services and Public Services Committee, Finance and Administrative Committee, and Public Planning Committee - Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Ames moved to approve. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session

At 4:45 p.m. Ames moved to go into Executive Sessions for the reasons stated by the Town Manager as listed below. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements and Discussions for the Proposed Sale or Purchase of Property (Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 [a]) related to:

1. Jonesville Road Area
2. Main Street Area
3. Muddy Creek Road Area
4. Sandalwood Food Pantry

Discussion of Legal Advice from Town Attorney on Matters Covered Under the Attorney - Client Privilege Related to Active and Pending Litigation (Pursuant to The South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 [a]) related to:

1. Town of Hilton Head Island v. Beaufort County re: Law Enforcement Fee
2. State of South Carolina v. Calvin Coral Hoagland
3. Hilton Head Island Motor Coach Resort, et.al. v. Town of Hilton Head Island et.al.
4. Transcon Industries, LLC et.al. v. Town of Hilton Head Island
5. McAvoy v. Town of Hilton Head Island

Discussion of Personnel Matters Relating to Town Manager Performance Evaluation (Pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a])

Action from Executive Session

Town Council returned to the dais at 6:21 p.m. **Becker moved to end the Executive session and return to the regular meeting. Ames seconded. Motion carried 7-0.** Perry stated there were no items to be addressed as a result of the Executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Approved: December 5, 2023



Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk



Alan R. Perry, Mayor

The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov