



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - 3:00 PM Minutes

Call to Order

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

Council Members present: Alan Perry, Mayor, David Ames, Ward 3, Mayor Pro-Tempore; Alex Brown, Ward 1; Tammy Becker, Ward 4; Steve Alfred, Ward 5; Glenn Stanford, Ward 6.

Council Members absent: Patsy Brison, Ward 2.

Invocation

Reverend John Joseph of Providence Presbyterian Church delivered the invocation.

Adoption of the Agenda

Ames moved to approve. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2023

Stanford moved to approve. Ames seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Workshop Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023

Stanford moved to approve. Ames seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Report of the Town Manager

Orlando reported that the Hilton Head Island Knights of Columbus Assembly 2280 recently presented the Jack Cavagnaro Public Service Award to Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue Captain BJ Ferguson. He stated the award is presented to an emergency services member that demonstrates a professional and personal commitment to serving and protecting our Island Community and its citizens. He congratulated Captain Ferguson and thanked him for his dedication to Hilton Head Island.

Orlando stated the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) held its Annual Fall Conference at the Westin on Hilton Head Island in early November. He explained Shea Farrar, Principal Planner, is the President elect of SCAPA and she and her team organized the conference. He also recognized Missy Luick, Director of Planning, who conducted a session on the Town's commitment to workforce

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housing. Darrin Shoemaker and Karla Vinent, from Public Projects and Facilities, led a bicycle tour that highlighted the Island's pathways and historic areas along with Frank Babel of BikeWalk HHI. Also, a guided tour of Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park was led by Ahmad Ward, Cora Miller and Dr. Louise Cohen. He thanked all for the contributions in making the event a success.

General Reports from Town Council

Becker requested that all advisory committee members be vetted through the Community Services Public Safety Committee. She also requested that all committee meetings be live streamed, allow for citizen input, and provide reports to Council regarding their progress.

Stanford noted he attended the Christmas Tree Lighting last weekend noting it was an incredible event with great attendance.

Perry reported the recent Honored Islanders that received recognition for their contributions to Hilton Head Island included: Brenda Bruce, Chet Williams, Charlotte Sanford, Gill and Marriet Campbell, Tricia Lynch, Vince Schultz, Tim Reynolds and Steve Stauffer.

Perry reported that Town council has received a request from Beaufort County for municipal consent for the bridge. He stated no action has been taken regarding the request and Council has not had any discussions regarding the request. He said the item will be brought forward to Council in January.

Report of the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study – Glenn Stanford

Stanford reported they are currently looking at long-range planning for transportation needs in the broader Lowcountry area. He noted the projects that would directly affect Hilton Head Island in the long-term is a review of the Gumtree Road intersection for improvements. Stanford added there is a placeholder for considering a second bridge to the Island that is placed ten years out before the study would even begin. Alfred and Becker requested the study regarding a second bridge be considered sooner.

Report of the Lowcountry Council of Governments – Tammy Becker

No report.

Report of the Beaufort County Airports Board – David Ames

No report.

Report of the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board – Glenn Stanford

No report.

Report of the Island Recreation Association Board – Alex Brown

No report.

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

Becker reported the Committee met in November and received a presentation regarding environmentally friendly landscaping and ground maintenance practices. She stated it was decided a trial will be conducted to see the impacts of using a non-hazardous treatment to manage landscaping needs.

Report of the Public Planning Committee – David Ames

Ames reported the Committee met on November 9 and discussed the proposed district plans.

Report of the Finance and Administrative Committee – Alex Brown

No report.

Appearance by Citizens

Melinda Tunner addressed Council regarding the independent study of the William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor. She noted her concern that the placeholder for funding for the project may be jeopardized. She encouraged evaluating the options and ensuring that the guiding principles are followed when making a final decision about the design. Tunner also requested meetings be recorded for viewing.

Skip Hoagland addressed Council regarding compliance of the law and the need for a forensic audit.

Skip Hoagland addressed Council stating it was on behalf of Lynn Greeley. Perry informed him Council does not accept powers of attorney. Mr. Hoagland disregarded the Mayor's comments and continued to speak regarding the Finance and Administrative Committee.

Gray Smith addressed Council requesting all advisory committee meetings be live streamed for viewing.

Blaine Grindle addressed Council regarding noise levels in the area of the Hilton Head Island Motor Coach Resort and the negative effect they have on the residents and visitors.

Peter Kristian addressed Council requesting expedition of the William Hilton Parkway 278 Corridor Project noting he is struggling obtaining employees due to the lengthy commute over the bridge.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution of the Town of Hilton Head Island Approving the Recommendation from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for the Calendar Year 2024 Grants – Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Gruber stated the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee spent multiple hours Town of Hilton Head Island Town Council

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receiving, reviewing, vetting, and meeting with each applicant individually and has brought forward the recommendations included in the packet. He noted that in the request from Sea Turtle Patrol there was a clerical error in the application which has been corrected. Based upon the correction, staff recalculated the ability to fund them under the TERC formula. It was determined they qualified for full funding. With that in mind, the Committee recommends they receive the full request of \$70,000.

Ames moved to support the Resolution by Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, approving the 2024 Accommodation Tax Grants as presented by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee, with the amendment to increase the Accommodation Tax Grant for Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island from \$55,040 to \$70,000. Stanford seconded.

Mayor Perry asked for public comment.

Skip Hoagland addressed Council stating his opposition to the Hilton Head Island Bluffton Chamber of Commerce receiving funding.

Keith Schlegel, Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee member, addressed Council thanking them for their support. He noted the Committee spend countless hours analyzing thousands of pages before making their recommendations.

Becker noted her concern regarding next year's allocations due to the allowance of up to 15% of the funds to be allocated to workforce housing and if done, the impact it would have on the organizations that receive funding.

Motion carried 6-0.

Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt a Master Plan for Patterson Family Park - Shawn Colin, Assistant Town Manager, Community Development

Colin conducted a presentation regarding the process, timeline and input for the park. He noted there has been a lot of input between the Town and the residents in this particular area and the comments and input received have been incorporated into the plan. He reviewed the proposed Master Plan.

Ames moved to approve. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt a Master Plan for Taylor Family Park - Shawn Colin, Assistant Town Manager, Community Development

Colin conducted a presentation regarding the process, timeline and input for the park. He noted there has been a lot of input between the Town and the residents in this particular area and the comments and input received have been incorporated into the plan. He reviewed the proposed Master Plan.

Ames moved to approve. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session

Ames moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons stated by the Town Manager as listed below. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 6-0

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: State of South Carolina v. Calvin Coral Hoagland

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

Action from Executive Session

Ames moved to end Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 6-0. Ames stated there was no action taken during Executive Session and no items to be addressed as a result of Executive Session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Approved: January 16, 2024


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