



Town of Hilton Head Island
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, February 12, 2024, 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Tammy Becker, Ward 4; Alex Brown, Ward 1; Patsy Brison, Ward 2, Steve Alfred, Ward 5

Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Brison moved to approve. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024

Ms. Brison moved to approve. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Appearance by Citizens

Gail Saukas addressed the Committee requesting that the Town not spend taxpayer dollars on chemicals.

Pamela Ovens addressed the Committee stating that when toxic chemicals are used to control the rodent population it does harm to other species. She suggested alternative methods be utilized in controlling rodents.

Kim Konte addressed the Committee regarding the use of toxic pesticides in parks and public spaces and the need to address the Town of Hilton Head Island Integrated Pest Management Program.

New Business

Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Title 8, Chapter 3, of the Town of Hilton Head Island Code of Ordinances, to add Section 8-3-114 titled Abandoned Watercraft - Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Mr. Gruber provided background and a summary of the proposed amendment.

In 2021, the South Carolina General Assembly adopted Section 50-21-30 which states that if a local government wishes to regulate the operation, titling, equipment, numbering, or all other matters relating to the regulation of watercraft while on the waters of the State, it must adopt legislation that is identical to South Carolina Code of Laws Section 50-21-190.

In recent years, the Town has observed an increase in the number of vessels, boats, and other watercraft that are abandoned, severely neglected, or even sunk, and for which it wishes to amend its code to adopt regulation specifically dealing with these types of issues. Therefore, the Town is proposing to amend the Town Code to incorporate Section 8-3-114 entitled Abandoned Watercraft as required by Section 50-21-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Members of the Committee had questions, comments and discussion regarding: the area that would fall under the ordinance; the need to protect our waterways; inquiry as to how long the process would take for removal; confirmation the Town would work with the State regarding cost, budgeting and the opportunity for obtaining grants; confirmation there is no cost in adopting the ordinance but it allows the Town to become more involved should a future situation arise; concern regarding how the funding would work; and confirmation that by adopting this into our code it allows the Town to invoke general provisions which says a violation of this code is punishable by a citation.

Mr. Alfred moved to forward the proposed ordinance to Town Council for review and consideration of approval. Ms. Brison seconded.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Pamela Ovens addressed the Committee regarding her opposition to the proposed ordinance. She stated the Department of Natural Resources, or the Coast Guard should be the ones to police the waterways.

Melinda Tunner addressed the Committee inquiring as to whether the wording should be "must remove or can remove" the watercraft.

Chair Becker called for a vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting Environmentally Friendly Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Practices - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects and Facilities

Mr. McIlwee conducted a presentation and summary of the item. Environmental Sustainability is identified in the Town Council approved 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan and includes Assessment and Implementation of an Environmentally Friendly Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Best Practices Program.

Town Staff assessed current Town practices along with other environmentally conscious landscaping practices relating to pest and weed control management practices and products. Staff discussed environmental best practices with certified professionals, other municipalities, local, state, and national leaders in this field, as well as our landscaping business partners to determine how to implement these strategies and best practices.

The need for an IPM program was identified as a necessary component of the Town's Environmental Best Practices that will allow Staff and Town contractors to focus on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impact on human health, the

environment, and non-target organisms with the reduced use of pesticides in accordance with direction provided by Town Council.

IPM is a system of managing pests using careful consideration and integration of all available pest control tools and techniques. The IPM will present a balanced approach between proper biological, cultural, physical and chemical practices. The goal is to identify the appropriate method of pest management and minimize the use of chemicals on Town maintained grounds. Landscape practices at Town maintained properties will follow the principles of this Integrated Pest Management policy.

At the November 13, 2023 meeting, the Community Services and Public Safety Committee provided direction to Staff to move forward with development of an IPM policy as well as develop a trial study to assess the efficacy and cost of various herbicidal treatments.

At the December 18, 2024 meeting, the Community Services and Public Safety Committee reviewed a draft IPM policy and provided direction and recommendations to Staff to make revisions to the proposed policy. The proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy (Attachment 2) includes revisions and recommendations made by the CSPA Committee. The IPM policy sets the framework for immediate and future adjustments to the Town's landscape practices.

Additionally, Staff presented an outline, scope and schedule for a trial study conducted by Clemson University located at one or more Town facilities to test and compare the efficacy of synthetic and organic pesticides. Based on Committee feedback and lack of consensus, we are not advancing the trial study.

Next Steps are as follows:

- Recommend Town Council adoption of a Resolution to approve the IPM policy.
- March Town Council meeting – Brief from Committee chair to Town Council on this item.
- April Town Council meeting – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt IPM policy.

Members of the Committee had questions, comments and discussion regarding a detailed, edited resolution provided by Ms. Brison at 9:17 a.m. Ms. Brison explained her reasoning and referenced her edits. **After lengthy discussion by the Committee, Mr. Alfred moved to continue the resolution and address it at a later date. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 3-1 (Brison opposed).**

Executive Session

Discussion of Appointment Regarding Boards, Commissions, and Committees (Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1)) related to Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust and Housing Action Committee.

At 10:57 a.m. Ms. Brison moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons stated above. Mr. Alfred seconded.

Action from Executive Session

At 11:35 a.m. Council returned to the dais and Chair Becker moved to end the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0

Chair Becker stated there was no action to take as a result of Executive Session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Approved: March 18, 2024

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