



Town of Hilton Head Island
**COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, March 18, 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

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

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2024

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

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024

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

Appearance by Citizens

Pamela Martin Ovens addressed the Committee thanking Bryan McIlwee for eliminating the use of rodenticide on Town property and stating that hopefully the Solid Waste and Recycling consultant, A. Goldsmith Resources, LLC (AGR) will be able to answer Councilmembers questions at today's meeting.

Carl Braden addressed the Committee regarding his disappointment with a pedestrian access gate closure between Bradley Circle and Driessen Beach Park that he uses regularly for walking and bike riding.

Presentation of the Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue Annual Report- Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief

Chief Blankenship conducted a presentation and summary of the item. Highlights included a total of 9,560 incidents including 7,032 EMS calls, 2,284 Fire calls, 62 HazMat calls and 168 Rescues for an average of 26 incidents per day. The top three busiest days for 2023 were January 7, August 19, and September 9. The busiest day is Saturday, the busiest month is July and the busiest station is 5 which is located at the front gate of Hilton Head Plantation.

This past year there were 39 fires within a structure with 74% of them being confined to the object or the room of origin. The total property that Fire Rescue saved was over \$152 Billion with a total combined loss of approximately \$2 Million in property. Chief

Blankenship touched on the most frequent responses addressed which are elderly and assisted care facilities in Hilton Head. Most EMS patient calls are for those 65-84 years old followed by 85+. A major highlight that Chief Blankenship spoke of is that Fire Rescue has a 50% cardiac arrest save rate whereas the national average is 26% and that has helped them save 7 individuals under cardiac arrest that survived in 2023. There were CIP highlights, staffing updates, community outreach & recruitment updates, accomplishment highlights, and upcoming initiatives that everyone can expect to see.

Members of the Committee had questions, comments, and brief discussion regarding the presentation by Chief Blankenship. After that discussion, the committee thanked the Chief and his team for the presentation of the annual fire rescue report and spoke of their willingness to continue to support them in any way they can.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of a Resolution to Support the Solid Waste and Recycling Analysis for Hilton Head Island- Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects and Facilities

Mr. McIlwee stated that before the committee was a resolution to support the Solid Waste and Recycling Analysis for Hilton Head Island.

There is an initiative in the Town of Hilton Head Island 2023-25 Strategic Action Plan to Identify strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) of Hilton Head Island Solid Waste and Recycling (Attachment 2).

Staff procured A. Goldsmith Resources, LLC (AGR), an expert consultant in the field of solid waste and recycling, and the preparer of the recently updated Beaufort County Solid Waste Management Plan (2022-2041), to conduct this assessment.

On May 2, 2023, Town Council unanimously approved a Resolution supporting the proposed approach and scope of services outline to complete the SWOT assessment.

On January 8, 2024, the Community Services and Public Safety Committee was presented with the findings of the SWOT analysis provided by Abby Goldsmith. The committee requested an explanation of select current practices and the inclusion of possible near-term actions as outlined below:

1. Describe multifamily solid waste and recycling collection.
2. Provide examples of solid waste and recycling in a POA.
3. Clarify what is recyclable.
4. Include grant funding as an opportunity.
5. Add possible near-term actions.

Pending Committee recommendation, next steps are as follows:

- Present findings of the Solid Waste and Recycling Strength, Weaknesses
- Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) assessment to full Town council in May.
- Council approval of a Resolution supporting the SWOT assessment.
- Implement Near-Term Actions

Abby Goldsmith, the consultant with AGR, provided the Committee with a review of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats previously presented at the January 8, 2024, Community Services and Public Safety meeting. Strengths identified were

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demonstrated support from elected officials and the public, and noted existing resources that the Town currently has. The weaknesses identified were that there is limited control of recycling and solid waste, no consistent curbside collection, haulers are not always in compliance with ordinance requirements, ordinance insurances, and no dedicated Town Staff or funding for solid waste management and recycling to name a few. Opportunities that Ms. Goldsmith identified were identified as the county paying for residential disposal at Hickory Hill landfill, the county considering the development of a processing facility for recyclables south of the broad, existing framework exists for Town-wide collection, potential diversion from commercial and public facilities, and enhancing solid waste and recyclable collection on beaches. Treats identified were demographic and geographic, limited facilities, and recycling challenges.

Ms. Goldsmith also referenced the feedback from the January 8th meeting including an explanation of select current practices and the inclusion of possible near-term actions to be implemented. She described multifamily solid waste and recycling collection, provided examples of solid waste and recycling in a POA, clarified what is recyclable, and included grant funding as an opportunity. She also spoke with the committee about clarifying the current ordinance to meet the Town's needs regarding what can and cannot be accepted for recycling at this time and other suggestions to aid in a more cohesive outcome for all. During this time there was a lengthy discussion on how to achieve that goal.

Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager, answered a committee member's question regarding why the Town has not entered into a contract directly with a facility. During this lengthy discussion, Mr. Gruber stated that the current facility that recycling is taken to, Hickory Hill, closes at noon on Saturdays, and if haulers do not pick up and dispose of the waste before noon, the hauler is responsible for storage over the weekend. Currently, State Law prohibits any new Class 1 facility from being open within a 75-mile radius of any existing Class 1 facility. Hickory Hill will be the only disposable facility for the foreseeable future unless they open a new facility.

Mr. McIlwee presented to the committee five-year term actions that are feasible to aid once this resolution is approved by Town Council. Actions included coordinating with Beaufort County to share approved SWOT and determine the County's short, mid and long term plans for solid waste and recycling; evaluate potential approaches and associated costs to provide curbside solid waste and recycling for all of HHI residents; establish a best in class recycling program at beach park facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors; establish a best in class recycling at HHI facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors; and lastly continue to strengthen enforcement of reporting and recycling requirements for licensed haulers in Town ordinance.

Members of the Committee had questions, comments, and discussions regarding the agenda topic. During this time there was a question of how the disposal fee that is set by the County and paid by Town residents could be eliminated and it was stated that the Town has an option to contract with a private recycling facility and require licensed haulers to use that facility. The other option would be contracting with a recycling facility in a nearby state. Town Attorney, Curtis Coltrane stated that it is allowed, however, the cost of getting materials from one location on Hilton Head to an alternative site could be costly.

Mr. Alfred moved to forward the proposed resolution to Town Council for review and consideration of approval. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 3-1 (Brison opposed).

New Business

Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Title 9, Chapter 2, of the Municipal Code of Hilton Head Island Titled Regulations and Requirements Relating to Smoking of Tobacco Products by Adding a Definition for Electronic Smoking Devices and Prohibiting Their Use Consistent with Existing Smoking Regulations – Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Josh Gruber presented information and an ordinance to amend smoking regulations and requirements allowing the Town to become more current with the prohibited use definition of electronic smoking devices.

In 2009, the Town of Hilton Head Island adopted regulations to its municipal code that prohibited smoking tobacco and tobacco related products indoors within publicly accessible commercial businesses or other publicly accessible buildings. In the years since the adoption of these regulations, new types of consumer products including electronic smoking devices, commonly referred to as vaping, have been created and are now widely in use. Because of this, the Town is proposing to update the definition section of its existing smoking regulations to include electronic smoking devices within the existing smoking regulations

On July 18, 2023, student representatives from the Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth made a presentation to the Town Council on the negative effects that electronic smoking devices and vaping in general has had on teens and young adults. They requested that the Town consider amending its code to include the use of electronic smoking devices along with the Town's existing smoking regulations. Following the receipt of this information, staff was requested to prepare this proposed amendment for the Community Services and Public Safety Committee's review and consideration.

Members of the Committee had minimal comments, and all were supportive of amending the ordinance for this matter.

Chair Becker called for public comment, and there was none.

Ms. Brison moved to forward the proposed ordinance to Town Council for review and consideration of approval. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Approved: May 20, 2024

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