



Town of Hilton Head Island
COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 8, 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 remove Item 6.b from the agenda and place it on the upcoming May meeting agenda. She explained she did not feel the resolution, as written, along with supporting documentation were ready to move forward. **Mr. Brown seconded. After discussion Mr. Brown withdrew his second. Ms. Brison stated she was not withdrawing her motion. Chair Becker asked for a second to Ms. Brison's original motion. Motion failed for lack of a second.**

Mr. Alfred moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 3-1 (Brison opposed).

Approval of the Minutes

Special Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2024

Mr. Alfred moved to approve the special meeting minutes of March 19, 2024, as presented. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Appearance by Citizens

Citizens who signed up to speak during this time expressed the need to wait until the agenda item they desired to speak on was discussed by the Committee.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting a Beach Parking Fee Schedule – Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Josh Gruber conducted a presentation. The Community Services and Public Safety Committee has been discussing the establishment of paid parking for many of the Town's publicly accessible beach parks. At the time, staff has recommended that the Committee review the various policy questions that will need to be addressed within a resolution setting forth a rate schedule and other related matters that will need to be implemented as part of its Beach Parking Master Plan.

Mr. Gruber provided a recap of the December 18th Community Services and Public Safety meeting, the Committee reviewed several policy questions and provided feedback to staff. Additional information was requested to continue these discussions and develop additional policy recommendations. This additional information included defining the overall purpose for the program, recommending a maximum daily rate, evaluating both current and future budget implications to refine potential parking rates, address Coligny Beach area employee parking concerns, and evaluate resident beach parking passes.

During the discussion, Mr. Gruber stated that to commence PCI Municipal Services' (PCI) management of the Town's Beach Parking Program, Town Council approved a Fiscal Year 2024 Budget amendment that included an operational budget of \$366,965 and a Capital budget of \$502,765, for a combined expenditure of \$869,730. A copy of this Ordinance was enclosed as Attachment 1. For the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025 budget, PCI has submitted a proposed operating budget of \$598,789 and a recurring Capital budget of \$25,000, for a total combined expenditure of \$623,789. A copy of that information was enclosed as Attachment 2. In addition to these expenses, staff is recommending that the current \$15.00 fee for Island Resident Beach Parking Passes be made free of charge and the revenue that had previously been generated from this fee be replaced with revenues generated exclusively from beach parking fees. This change will add an additional \$115,000 in yearly expenses to the Beach Parking Management Program. Items of interest during this discussion were staffing levels, which include three full-time, five part-time and three seasonal. Other comments regarding coverage were discussed and the future plan is for the Town Facilities. Mr. Gruber stated that Islanders Beach Park is expected to have full-time manned facilities and the other parks will be more of a patrolled model. Questions were also raised regarding license plate recognition systems, and a representative from PCI was present to explain the status and all locations except for Alder Lane are in place and will be functional with power soon. Lastly, there was discussion of where funding would be sourced from. Mr. Gruber stated that at the time a parking fee was to be utilized from a proposed parking fee however, going forward if a parking fee is not adopted the revenue generated would be sufficient to sustain this program. If revenue is not achieved, then the Town would need to seek alternative ways as services are outweighing revenues currently. Additionally, there were questions regarding the definition of a resident, which was clearly defined by Mr. Gruber.

To financially support these combined expenses, the Town would need to consider adoption and implementation of an updated parking fee rate structure that will generate a sufficient amount of revenue to cover these costs. Staff is therefore recommending two separate options be considered. The first option would charge \$5.00 per hour at all identified beach parking areas that contain publicly available parking spaces except for Chaplin Community Park during the youth recreational sports season, and Coligny Beach Park year-round. The second option would be to charge \$5.00 per hour at all identified beach parking areas that contain publicly available parking spaces except for Chaplin Community Park during the youth recreational sports season, but inclusive of Coligny Beach Park year-round. If this option is preferred, staff would make an additional recommendation that concerns regarding the availability of employee parking within the Coligny Beach area be addressed through the dedication of employee-only restricted parking at the site of the former Wild Wing Café. Discussion regarding concerns of employers providing their employees with parking for

those working in the Coligny Beach area if parking fees were implemented was discussed in length. At the time some members of the Committee were in favor and others were not. Solutions of merchant validation was discussed as a suggested incentive. Other thoughts were to implement a survey to collect efficient data to provide information to alleviate any unintended issues that could arise.

The draft Beach Parking Management Ordinance has previously been considered by the Committee and was forwarded to the Town Council with a recommendation that it be adopted. However, to make sure that all issues associated with this program have been addressed at the time of the Ordinance's adoption, the Resolution setting forth the proposed beach parking rates and addressing other ancillary issues should be recommended for adoption as well. This would allow for concurrent adoption of both the Ordinance setting for the framework for the beach parking program and the Resolution setting forth the necessary rate structure to fully implement this program. Staff is therefore requesting that the Community Services and Public Safety Committee consider each of the proposed policy considerations that are identified in this Memorandum.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Lee Lucier addressed the Committee stating paid beach parking has been discussed for many years and all the parties involved still cannot decide on what the real goal is that needs to be addressed.

Jack Daly addressed the Committee regarding his involvement in the Circle-to-Circle initiative set forth by the Town previously and that he feels that the Coligny area is not ready for charged parking in that area.

Jay Wendl addressed and shared with the Committee statistics from the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce regarding visitors to Hilton Head Island and how he feels it correlates to the proposed parking resolution.

David Martin addressed the Committee as the owner of Piggly Wiggly regarding the need for an overflow parking lot and getting back to sharing our Island with others.

Melinda Tunner addressed the Committee with her thoughts on what problem the parking policy is trying to solve and charging for parking in all areas except one could cause problems down the road.

Rusty Jaquiss addressed the Committee and feels that there is not enough information to implement the parking plan at this time.

Ashley Phillips addressed the Committee that she feels there are too many cars in the area, not enough spaces, and the possibility of using trolly's from Honey Horn to deal with the traffic in the area.

There was much discussion made by the Committee regarding the agenda item and their thoughts on the presented resolution. Discussion included maximum daily charges, resident beach parking passes, employee parking considerations, the fiscal impacts, parking rates and recreations supports/beach parking considerations. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee felt that there was a need for additional information from PCI about parking and data such as financial information regarding the costs of services for PCI to separate the cost for Islanders and Coligny Beach Parks and additional services possibly at Chaplin Park

and receive a copy of the report that Mr. Wendl referenced from the Chamber of Commerce and potential future projections that could assist them in recommending a policy.

Mr. Alfred moved to forward the resolution to Town Council for review and consideration of approval. Mrs. Becker seconded. Motion failed 2-2 (Brison and Brown opposed).

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting Environmentally Friendly Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Practices/Integrated Pest Management Policy – Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects and Facilities

Bryan McIlwee presented to the Committee a resolution for consideration to recommend adoption by Town Council to adopt an environmentally friendly landscaping and grounds maintenance practices/Integrated Pest Management Policy.

Due to the late hour, Ms. Brison made a motion to continue the agenda item to the next meeting on May 20, 2024. The motion failed by lack of a second.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Pamela Martin Ovens addressed the Committee about her thoughts on the use of pesticides and not using chemicals that are poisonous to humans and wildlife. She wants the new IPM to reflect the wishes of the people who live on Hilton Head Island.

Kim Konte addressed the Committee about her overall thoughts on the proposed Integrated Pest Management program and the potential conflict of interest she sees with the third-party contractor hired.

Trevor Konte addressed the Committee about his views on stopping using Round-Up and other known pesticides to protect them and Hilton Head Island.

Bryan McIlwee responded to public comments and to questions from the Committee.

The Committee asked questions and made comments regarding the presentation of the draft Integrated Pest Management Policy. Members of the Committee had concerns about the types of chemicals that were proposed to be used, providing the public with advance notice of when the chemicals were used, and the policy revisions that were presented at today's meeting and hidden comments from one of the Town's contractors on the draft policy. After a lengthy discussion of their concerns with staff, they decided that more information is needed to be able to make an informed decision about the policy.

Mr. Brison moved to continue this matter to the May 20th Committee meeting for further discussion to allow Staff to provide the Committee with additional information. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 3-1 (Becker opposed).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Approved: August 19, 2024

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