



Town of Hilton Head Island
COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 20, 2024 – 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Tamara Becker, Chair, Steve Alfred, Alex Brown, Patsy Brison

Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Brison made a motion to amend the agenda to add the discussion of the Integrated Pest Management Policy. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Ms. Brison asked a procedural question from the Town's Attorney, Curtis Coltrane, regarding the matter. Mr. Coltrane responded that there was no second to the motion to amend the agenda. Based on the previous meeting's video recording there was a request from Ms. Brison that the item be placed on the next meeting agenda, however the Mayor has chosen not to place it on the agenda. It was discussed that under Robert's Rules, her motion would have been treated as a postponement to a certain time and Roberts Rules is a useful guide to Town Council, however, they are not bound by Robert's Rules and the matter will be postponed at a time when it is on an agenda by the Mayor. Mr. Coltrane went on to reference the Town's Municipal Code for the Committee to hear and continue the discussion.

Mr. Brown moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 3-1 (Ms. Brison opposed).

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024

Mr. Alfred moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 18, 2024, as presented. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024

Ms. Brison made a motion to postpone the meeting minutes of April 8, 2024, to allow for revisions. By unanimous consent, the motion was carried 4-0.

Appearance by Citizens

Pamela Martin Ovens: addressed the Committee regarding her concern that the highly paid expert staff are so busy that they cannot keep public safety as a top priority. Mrs. Martin Ovens referenced the Town's pest contractor, Brightview, and their support of using pesticides in the Town parks.

Unfinished Business

Presentation of the Town of Hilton Head Island Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Crime Statistics - Major Jeff Purdy

Major Purdy presented the Committee with statistics from the quarterly uniform crime report for quarter four and the first quarter of 2024. In this report he highlighted Aggravated Assaults, crimes against persons, traffic issues and vehicle collisions. His report presented can be referenced in detail at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov. The Committee thanked Mr. Purdy for his time and the efforts of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). During the question-and-answer period, Ms. Brison referenced extra patrol on the beaches, department assistance with the recent ride of silence, and enforcement of Town Ordinances and asked if the BCSO is enforcing them and Major Purdy stated they do. Mr. Brown asked if there was a formal process for funeral processions and there is if there are additional deputies available. Funeral directors can reach out to BCSO to assist with traffic. Mr. Brown also asked about the increase in shootings in our area and how best to communicate with the Island residents. Major Purdy felt that communication is key and referenced the utilization of the crime stoppers anonymous line. He said that going forward he would include in his reports to the Committee reports of shootings. Mrs. Becker encouraged the citizens present to enroll in the Citizens Police Academy as it is a great program. She indicated that she would like to see a heat map of where Major Purdy indicated crime is happening, this will allow them to understand where they are occurring most.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Pamela Martin Ovens: addressed the committee regarding her concerns about safety for the lights at Palmetto Bay Road and Arrow Road.

The overall conversation from the Committee was positive and they felt additional data and maps would be helpful when discussing the quarterly crime reports in the future. Lastly, there was a comment made by Mr. Brown regarding homelessness and the potential need for shelter. Mr. Gruber responded that he would work with the Committee Chair to possibly bring forward an agenda item to provide an update for solutions with Beaufort County.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Rotary Community Center Proposal – Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Josh Gruber presented the Committee with background information regarding a resolution supporting the Rotary Community Center Proposal. On June 28, 2023, representatives of the Rotary Club of Hilton Head ("Rotary") contacted the Town and proposed discussing a potential partnership with the Town to create a gathering place for individuals, families, and organizations to conduct social and community activities. A copy of this correspondence, along with a Case Statement for a Rotary Community Center, was previously provided to the Committee and is enclosed as Attachment 2 within the staff report. Based upon Rotary's most recent communication (April 16, 2024), a copy of which is enclosed as Attachment 4 of the staff report, they are proposing to utilize a model like what the Town has used with both the Island Recreation Association and The Sandbox Children's Museum in the development of their respective facilities. This model

would envision the Town paying to construct the facility and the ongoing maintenance and operating costs. Rotary would then fundraise and commit to fully furnishing, upfitting, and equipping this facility at an estimated cost of \$750,000. The Rotary Club of Hilton Head would be the main lead on this fundraising effort but would also reach out to the other Rotary clubs located on the Island to allow for their meaningful participation as well. In exchange for this partnership, Rotary is asking that the Town allow the Island's various Rotary Clubs to utilize this building without charge in perpetuity as well as allowing other nonprofit groups to use this space at low to no cost. This programming would be like what is done today at the Rotary Community Center located in Bluffton.

Bruce Siebold spoke to the Committee about the Rotary's efforts to date with the Town. He referenced vacant facilities of interest to repurpose and thoughts of potential space on the Town's Mid Island Track. Mr. Brown was impressed with the idea and was in favor of this space becoming truly a community center and a gathering space for all to use. Ms. Brison stated that she came from a community where there were several community centers available for use. She made mention to the use of the Mid Island Track and that Phase 1 does not include buildings currently. It was later mentioned that it could be identified as a potential area in the future with the support of Town Council if they approved efforts to investigate that. There were additional questions of the Master Plan and the incorporation of what was planned and what is presented today by the Rotary. Shawn Colin responded that this is purely conceptual at this point and only in Phase 1 of these efforts.

Mr. Alfred is in support of the concept and of the resolution. He wanted more information about the potential phases. Mr. Gruber stated that the purpose of today's meeting was to garner general support for the draft resolution at a very high level and that would allow staff to assist the Rotary in identifying a location and how it fits in with the rest of the area. It also allows the Rotary to begin fundraising and there is support for the project while the fine details are ironed out. Mrs. Becker stated that she would be interested in seeing in the future the details of a budget, Town ownership, the building be open for all non-profit use and those that would like to use the space. Mr. Siebold thanked the Committee for their openness and urged that this community center would be available for use by the community for a space that is needed. Mr. Brown asked that the Committee be refreshed in the future on the Master Plan that was previously adopted by Town Council. Mr. Gruber indicated that information would be provided to Town Council if this resolution was approved by the Committee.

Mr. Alfred moved to forward the resolution to Town Council for review and consideration of approval. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.
There was no public comment.

Executive Session

Discussion of Appointment to Boards, Commissions, and Committees [Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1)] related to:

1. Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee

2. Board of Zoning Appeals
3. Design Review Board
4. Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhood Community Development Corporation
5. Parks and Recreation Commission
6. Planning Commission

At 11:14 a.m. Ms. Brison moved to enter into Executive Session for the reasons cited above by Chair Becker. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

At 12:22 p.m. by unanimous consent, the committee voted to end Executive Session and returned to the regular meeting. Motion carried 3-0 (Mr. Alfred was out at the time of the vote).

Action From Executive Session

There was no action as a result of executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. by unanimous consent. Motion carried 3-0 (Mr. Alfred was out at the time of the vote and adjournment).

Approved: August 19, 2024

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