



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina**  
**Public Facilities Committee of Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 30, 2021**

**1. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:**

The Public Facilities Committee of Council met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 30, 2021 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Greg Hammond (Chair), Justin Novak, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Andy Benke, Mandy Hawver, Bridget Welch, and Anthony Stith. There were no members of the public present and no members of the media.

Chair Hammond called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

**2. Staff Updates:**

1. Beach Boardwalks – Chair Hammond stated with the decrease of lumber prices, he feels it necessary to revisit plans to improve some of the boardwalks. Chief Stith suggested to put some thought into long-term solutions for improving some of the paths, like shortening them and/or raising them up. He also confirmed the winter season is the best time to work on beach path improvements. Chair Hammond suggested the committee work on a proposal to submit before Council to have approved for work to start this winter.

a. Improvements:

- i. Station 17- updated signage
- ii. Station 18- repairs are in progress
- iii. Station 22.5 – some boardwalk planks need replacement (650 feet long)
  1. Current cost estimate is \$140 per foot
  2. Boardwalks generally last 8-10 years
- iv. Station 24 – elevate middle section
- v. Station 26.5 – repair and elevate sunken areas
- vi. Station 28 – repair and elevate sunken areas

Councilmember Visser recommended mending the street sign on Keenan Street and maintaining the current path as is. Councilmember Novak suggested taking a look at Station 29 to assess potential erosion issues.

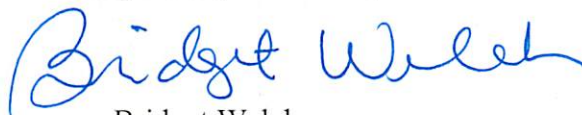
2. Battery Gadsden – Residents have requested some more attention and maintenance be dedicated to the area, specifically the section between the library and the cultural center. Chair Hammond agreed and suggested a paint job. Councilmember Novak also agreed and suggested the Town put some more effort towards maintaining areas like Battery Gadsden as places that can be visited and are kept clean. Chief Stith stated the locks can be put back on the doors, the grass will be cut, and they will focus on sprucing up that area. Councilmember Visser indicated there will be more focus on this issue at Council Workshop.
3. Shallow Well Structures on Jasper – There are two historical structures between Stations 26 and 27, which cannot be demolished. They both need some maintenance, safety repairs, and roof repairs, which is estimated to cost \$40,000. Chair Hammond suggested adding it to the Capital Fund budget that is coming up for discussion soon. The committee will take the “mothball route” for repairs, focusing on getting them up to safety code and roof repairs.
4. Stormwater – Comprehensive review – Mr. Benke stated the Town applied for a \$100,000 BRIC grant that has not been awarded yet. He also indicated they need to assess where work needs to occur. He added the Water and Sewer Committee is looking into adding a Stormwater Utility Department to the Town. The process to add this will most likely be long and complicated, so it is necessary to set realistic expectations.
5. Parking on Town Owned Property – Chair Hammond noted Battery Gadsden has been more heavily used for beach parking recently. He suggested trying to curb beach parking in the area and have it return to only being used for the facilities nearby. Councilmember Novak noted many are not parking in the designated areas and instead use the grass for parking and driving. He feels added parameters on who can park there would curb these issues. Chair Hammond feels it would also help curb graffiti and would like to present the idea at Council Workshop.
6. Options for Old Town Hall – Chair Hammond stated one option is getting an opinion from Attorney Larry Dodds if an as-is sale is viable. Another is for the Town to keeping it and putting money towards renovations.
7. Historical Markers and Signage for Town Owned Properties – Councilmember Novak feels it would be helpful to have some low-profile signage explaining various historical and notable spaces on the Island. He feels it would also help curb litter and vandalism. He suggested working with Battery Gadsden Cultural Center and perhaps adding some signs similar to those at Fort Moultrie and Thomson Park. Councilmember Hammond agreed. Councilmember Novak offered to speak with the Culture Center about verbiage and Mr. Benke agreed to get an estimate on signage costs to present a proposal at the next Council meeting.

8. Litter Mitigation in Public Spaces – Chair Hammond mentioned Battery Thompson, the top of the Mound, and the rights of way for beach parking are areas that are prone to large amounts of litter. Overall, Council would like for people to be responsible for their own trash, but Chair Hammond feels that is not realistic. Councilmember Novak agrees, especially during the summer months, and suggested the possibility of adding a seasonal employee (like the Beach Service Officers that are hired in the summer) to help mitigate litter or having an incentive program for those who dispose of trash properly. Mr. Benke suggested hiring local students or teenagers to possibly assist with cleaning up, particularly on the weekends.

Chair Hammond made a note to thank the staff involved with painting Battery Thompson. It has helped with keeping people off school property. Mr. Robinson suggested closing the gate permanently to divert people away from the school.

3. **Motion was made by Councilmember Justin Novak, Seconded by Councilmember Gary Visser, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch