

TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 16, 2019
8:30 a.m.

The Public Facilities Committee of Council met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Greg Hammond (Chair), Sarah Church and Tim Reese. Staff members present were Andy Benke, Chris Griffin, Mandy Hawver, Courtney Liles, Anthony Stith and Chris Wallace. Council Members present were Chauncey Clark and Kaye Smith. There were four (4) 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.

Staff Updates:

Fire Station repairs- Staff is in the process of reviewing the contract from Applied Building Sciences. The project is scheduled to go out for bid in August with the idea of waiting until the end of October to start construction so weather isn't an issue. Construction will take 2-3 months.

Maintenance Shed- The plan is for Applied Building Sciences to construct a storage building between 4,500-5,000 square feet next to the current boat shed behind the Fire Department. This would be used by the Maintenance and Police Departments to store equipment to protect it from the elements. This project will likely start after the Fire Station repairs are completed.

Sanitation- Every morning the maintenance department goes to each beach path to make sure the dog bag dispensers are full and to pick up any noticeable trash and litter. Extra efforts to make sure the areas around the trash cans are maintained better and also the areas on either side of the paths was discussed.

Path Trimming- Council previously approved cutting 10 feet on either side of beach paths. The current challenge is cutting anything seaward of the setback lines. Town Administrator Andy Benke has been in contact with DHEC and is awaiting answers.

Boardwalk Construction- Stations 25 and 26 have been completed. The new boardwalk at the Sullivan's Island Elementary School will be completed soon and will be available for public use. The next path will most likely be Station 27. Maintenance work is needed at Stations 18, 24 and 26 ½. The Greenbelt Grant Program is for new construction only and cannot be used for maintenance work.

Stormwater- The Town does not have a stormwater utility. The infrastructure and roads are all owned by SCDOT. It is their responsibility to maintain and repair stormwater drainage systems. DHEC is currently working on a general maintenance permit to maintain outfalls. Stations 18 ½, 19, 25 and 28 ½ are all good outfalls on the island.

Fishing Pier- Council commissioned a study by Kimley Horn that proposed 3 solutions. There is no indication to move forward at this time. This item will be tabled until it becomes unstable.

General Discussion:

Sanitation Standards- Chair Hammond stated that since the Town does not have a formal beach litter removal program, he suggests that the Town host a summer contest where children pick up trash and have it weighed and recorded. The child with the most amount of trash collected at the end of the summer will win a prize. Councilmember Reese suggested having the Recreation Committee look into a fundraiser for this event.

4th of July Debrief- Chair Hammond suggested a street sweeper service the island annually after the 4th of July to remove debris and any trash left over from the parade.

Smoking in Public Areas- Chair Hammond stated he is not anti-smoking, but he is anti-litter and anti-plastic. He added that cigarette butts are the single greatest source of ocean trash in the world. 1.7 billion pounds are tossed annually which are poisonous to fish and wildlife that eat fish. Councilmember Church stated she fully supports a limit on smoking on the beach but she does not think that is enough. She believes a lot of the litter and cigarette butts are coming from the street and going into the drains which end up in the ocean. She supports a more comprehensive ban rather than just on the beach. Councilmember Reese supports the ban but has concerns regarding legality and enforcement. He suggested using other local municipalities ordinance language as a template to craft one for the Town. Town Administrator Andy Benke stated that Sullivan's Island was the first municipality in South Carolina to ban smoking in restaurants. He added that Council will need to develop a plan for enforcing fines if approved.

Motion: Action: The Public Facilities Committee recommends to full Council to allow Town staff to craft an Ordinance to ban smoking in public areas on Sullivan's Island and the beaches with findings of fact due to pollution and other various reasons.

Moved by Councilmember Tim Reese, Seconded by Councilmember Sarah Church.

Motion passed unanimously.

Parking in rights-of-way's when flooded- The roads, asphalt and right-of-way's are owned by SCDOT. Councilmember Reese asked if the Town could block off certain areas when they are flooded. Town Administrator Andy Benke answered that only if it was a hazard to the public. It is important that the Town makes the decision and not the adjacent property owner.

Stormwater Drain Location on East Side of Ben Sawyer and Jasper Boulevard Intersection and Possible Crosswalk/ADA Ramp Interference- Chair Hammond stated that there are a number of young families that live in north-east quadrant of the island that are separated from the rest of the island by major roads with no designated safe crossing area. He wants to do everything he can to allow children to get from that neighborhood to the beach, parks and the school safely. He has spoken to a SCDOT traffic engineer who is in favor of the cross walk. SCDOT will only install a crosswalk with ADA compliance ramps. There are also stormwater drains at this location that would have to be relocated elsewhere. Staff will confirm with SCDOT that they would be willing to put a crosswalk at this location if it is feasible with the stormwater drains. Councilmember Reese suggested having a fixed turn on 22 ½ and Middle Street to help with the traffic flow in the Commercial District. Chair Hammond has spoken with a few families who live in this neighborhood that are willing to host a “Connect the Island” block party to raise private donations to help defray the costs of moving the stormwater drains. The Committee unanimously agreed to move forward with this item.

Motion: Action: Adjourn at 9:50 a.m.

Moved by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Councilmember Tim Reese.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Courtney Liles