

July 21, 2020

The regular meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m., all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sarah Church, Councilmember
Greg Hammond, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. This meeting was conducted via virtual meeting as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic. There were approximately ten (10) members of the public present and no members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark.

I. Presentation: 2020 Beach Monitoring Survey- Review of the 2020 Beach Condition Survey by Dr. Nicole Elko of Elko Coastal Consulting Inc.

Mayor O'Neil introduced Dr. Nicole Elko of Elko Coastal Consulting Inc. Dr. Elko presented the 2020 Beach Monitoring Survey. This report provides an annual condition survey to monitor the Sullivan's Island beach. Beach profile data collected during August 2016, June 2017, June 2018, June 2019 and June 2020 were compared to beach profile data collected by SCDHEC-OCRM in the summers of 2014 and 2015.

Analyses of the mean high water (MHW) position relative to the SCDHEC-OCRM baseline and unit volume by monument were conducted. These analyses documented that overall, the beach and, in particular, the dune and back beach accumulated sand along most of the island between 2019 and 2020. This may have been partially influenced by reduced recreational beach use due to an exercise-only regulation enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, there is no indication that the shoreline has advanced seaward since 2014. Between 2019 and 2020, a volume loss of 68,423 cy (erosion) with the most volume loss occurring in the center of the island at Station 28.

The northeast end of the island has little protective beach and dune system in place. Despite armoring with erosion control structures, erosion continues along this stretch of Sullivan's Island. Here, beachfront homes are located either on or seaward of the primary dune in vulnerable positions. Despite sandbar attachment events, sediment has not been delivered to this section in recent years.

The data documented a sandbar attachment event in 2014 and another in 2018-19. Most of the sediment from the 2014 attachment event has been transported downdrift, toward southwestern Sullivan's Island and the Charleston Harbor jetty. Data from 2020 indicates that sandbar attachment events result in a pattern of accretion and erosion along the central portion of the island.

The beach at Station 19 is extraordinarily wide with a unit volume of 978 cy/ft and growing due to the Charleston Harbor jetty. While the shoreline is not advancing seaward, sand volume continues to increase as the primary dune and back beach prograde and increase in elevation.

If the present management strategy is maintained, additional dune, beachfront marsh, and maritime forest progradation (seaward movement) may continue in the central portion of the island. It seems that the more frequent occurrence of king tides (specifically the higher than predicted high tides) may be controlling additional dune progradation somewhat. Continued annual monitoring is recommended. By better understanding the beach performance following sandbar attachment events, improved management strategies may become obvious.

In addition to the wide, accreting beaches in the central portion of the island, Sullivan's Island also has beach management challenges on the northeast end related to narrow beach widths and minimal storm protection. Several hot spots are being closely scrutinized.

II. Presentation: Proposed 2020/2021 Operating Budget by CARTA Staff

Mayor O'Neil introduced Ron Mitchum, Executive Director of CARTA and Sharon Hollis, Principal Planner of Lowcountry Rapid Transit (LCRT).

The CARTA Board of Directors approved the FY2020/2021 Proposed Budget on June 17, 2020. This proposed budget is based on actual and projected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. Because of these uncertain times and unknown factors, this budget will be revised during the fiscal year to reflect actual changes to revenues and expenditures. The BCDCOG staff monitors all activities monthly and makes decisions based on those activities. Mr. Mitchum gave a brief overview on the budget and line items.

Motion was made by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Councilmember Greg Hammond, to approve the FY2020/2021 Operating Budget by CARTA. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hollis gave a brief update on the Tel-A-Ride Services. Many mobility-impaired residents in the CARTA service area aren't able to use standard public transit vehicles. Often times, however, those individuals do qualify for the Tel-A-Ride paratransit program. In order to be eligible for Tel-A-Ride, riders must have a specific impairment that restricts mobility. The Tel-A-Ride service area is designed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated requirements. The service is available during the same hours as current CARTA fixed-route bus lines, and within a ¾ mile corridor on either side of system routes. Tel-A-Ride services all of the Charleston peninsula, as well as portions of James Island, West Ashley, Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms and North Charleston.

III. Public Comment: No public comments were made.

IV. Council Action Items:

1. Approval of Council Minutes –

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, to approve the following minutes of Town Council:

- **June 16, 2020 Special Council Meeting**
- **June 16, 2020 Regular Council Meeting**
- **June 26, 2020 Special Council Meeting**
- **July 1, 2020 Emergency Council Meeting**
- **July 8, 2020 Special Council Meeting**
- **July 15, 2020 Special Council Meeting**

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2020-11, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,700,000) Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds, in one or more series; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto:

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond, Seconded by Councilmember Greg Sarah Church, to Approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2020-11, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,700,000) Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds, in one or more series; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Second Reading, Ordinance 2020-12, An Ordinance Granting Charleston Water System a temporary construction easement and permanent waterline easement on Town Parcel TMS #529-05-00-036 (soccer field) as delineated by the surveyor drawings:

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, Seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2020-12, An Ordinance Granting Charleston Water System a temporary construction easement and permanent waterline easement on Town Parcel TMS #529-05-00-036 (soccer field) as delineated by the surveyor drawings.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Councilmember Greg Hammond, to suspend the Rules of Procedure to allow for Third Reading and Ratification for Ordinance 2020-12.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Greg Hammond, Seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2020-12, An Ordinance Granting Charleston Water System a temporary construction easement and permanent waterline easement on Town Parcel TMS #529-05-00-036 (soccer field) as delineated by the surveyor drawings.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Resolution- Approval of a Resolution Agreeing to Vehicle Financing Terms with Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T) for Three (3) Years in the Amount of \$185,000.00 at 1.36%:
Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, Seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to approve a Resolution Agreeing to Vehicle Financing Terms with Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T) for Three (3) Years in the Amount of \$185,000.00 at 1.36%.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Victims' Rights Fund Distribution to the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at MUSC, My Sister's House and People Against Rape:
Motion was made by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to approve Victims' Rights Fund Distribution to the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at MUSC, My Sister's House and People Against Rape.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the June 10, 2020 Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Greg Hammond to approve the June 10, 2020 Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion passed unanimously within the Committee (Committee Member Bachman Smith, IV absent).

7. Approval of the June 11, 2020 Public Facilities Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond, Seconded by Councilmember Sarah Church, to approve the June 11, 2020 Public Facilities Meeting Minutes.

Motion passed unanimously within the Committee (Committee Member Tim Reese absent)

V. Reports and Communication:

1. **Mayor's Report-** No items to report.

2. Administrator's Report

I. General Correspondence

- Mary Pringle- Island Turtle Team, July Newsletter
- Benjamin Byrnes- National Park Service, Note of appreciation for previous assistance and cooperation from Town staff to the National Park Service Visitor and Resource Protection

II. Construction

Fire Station Structural Repairs- Curt Berg/ABS met with Chief Stith and Town Administrator Benke mid-June for initial conversation regarding interior work.

Thomas and Hutton- Station 22.5 Crosswalk: SCDOT returned the encroachment permit and construction drawings completed. Awaiting Thomas and Hutton contract for permitting, bidding process and construction oversight.

South Carolina Department of Transportation- Stormwater Repair

- Station 28.5- Department continues to review solutions for the Station 28.5 basin and outfall; Town and SCDOT will submit a joint application to CTC for 2021 project year
- Station 13 Street- After evaluating the stormwater pipe, the Department will be replacing much of the line along Station 13 Street

Accreted Land Transition Zone Trimming- Staff awaiting vendor meeting to review cutting parameters before commencement of transition zone work along Pettigrew Street.

Charleston County Transportation Committee- Staff has confirmed paving offer along Conquest Avenue and short Raven Drive using CTC pavement management fees. Await approval from the CTC Committee.

Toler's Cove Dredging Project- The engineer has advised that the project is complete, final calculations for material deposited in the basin verified and invoice tendered.

Beach Path Maintenance- Staff is preparing to review work necessary to establish clearance alongside each beach path.

III. General

Pandemic Planning- Town remains at OPCON-2 with limited public access to Town Hall. Residents and businesses are encouraged to continue remote access for Town business when possible. Staff is present at Town Hall for regular hours 8am to 5pm. All Town events for Independence Day were cancelled and fireworks rescheduled for December 4, 2020. Parks and playgrounds remain open to public under notice to use with risk.

Engine 1201- The new pumper is in service and Engine 1202 has been retired. Treasure Cay Emergency Services is prepared to take delivery through Senator Sandy Senn during the first week of July.

Stormwater Flooding- In an effort to resolve the flooding at Station 22 ½ and I'On Avenue, property owners Madeline McGee and Bunky Wichmann requested a study of the area by Charleston County. After a field review with Town staff, the County Public Works Department prepared an estimate of cost to clean, video and analyze the pipe on Station 22 ½ up to Middle Street.

Accreted Land Invasive Removal- Quarterly report for invasive removal indicates wisteria and poison ivy continue to be a major challenge. Additionally, seedlings of invasive plants in the transition zone continue to emerge. The extremely wet conditions have resulted in several trees toppling's.

3. Attorney's Report- No items to report.

4. Boards and Commissions Reports – Terms for various Boards and Commission seats expire in September 2020. During this calendar year, five (5) terms will expire and one seat is vacant due to resignation.

- Planning Commission, Sydney Cook- term expiration
- Planning Commission, Hal Currey- term expiration
- Planning Commission, Carl Hubbard- term expiration
- Planning Commission, Gary Visser- term expiration
- Tree Commission, Theresa Luke- resignation

- Tree Commission, Nat Robb, term expiration

VI. Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Mayor O’Neil. Monthly report rendered.

Public Facilities Committee – Councilmember Greg Hammond, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Mayor Pro-Tem Chauncey Clark, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Sarah Church, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Video Recording of Town Council Meetings- for archiving on Town website for public access.

Codification of Town Ordinances- in progress, to be reviewed by Council upon completion.

Personnel Handbook- in progress, to be reviewed by Council upon completion of draft.

Water and Sewer Committee – Councilmember Bachman Smith IV, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

Committee Meeting – The next Water & Sewer Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 8:45 a.m. at Town Hall.

Public Safety Committee – Councilmember Tim Reese, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

Speed Limit- Chair Reese met with SCDOT to discuss speed limit and cross walks. They are looking into changing the speed limit on Middle Street to 25mph. The goal is to change the speed limit island-wide to 25mph.

Recreation Committee – Councilmember Kaye Smith, Chair.

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, Seconded by Councilmember Sarah Church, to adjourn Meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Sottile

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