



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

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
Bachman Smith, IV, Mayor Pro-Tem
Greg Hammond, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Justin Novak, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Amanda Hawver, Randy Robinson, Joe Henderson, and Bridget Welch.

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were approximately twenty-five (25) members of the public present and 0 members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for prayer or reflection.

I. Format: Public Comments

The following residents spoke in opposition of installing pickle ball courts at Poe Park:

- Cindy Garland, 2 Citadel Street
- Phil Garland, 2 Citadel Street
- Bill Harwell, 1820 Central Avenue
- Mark Howard, 1820 Central Avenue
- Tom Proctor, 1726 Atlantic Avenue
- Karen Coste, 322 Station 19
- Benji Harwell, 1751 I'On Avenue
- Lucas Harwell, 1751 I'On Avenue

The following residents spoke in favor of installing pickle ball courts on the Island, but at Stith Park:

- Dan Krosse, 2424 Myrtle Avenue
- John Bell Hines, 1724 Middle Street

The following residents spoke in favor of installing pickle ball courts, either at Poe or Stith Park:

- Manda Poletti, 1771 Atlantic Avenue

The following residents expressed their wish to improve the aesthetic of the new water pump stations:

- Paul Vannatta, 1802 Back Street
- Brent Havens, 1746 Thompson Avenue

The following residents spoke in favor of re-zoning of Battery Logan (and the field at Station 16 & Atlantic) if it is kept in its current state as a green space:

- Julia Khoury, I'On Ave
- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Avenue
- Carl Jacobson, 1509 Middle Street

The following residents spoke in opposition of installing pickle ball courts at Stith Park:

- Greg Hammond, 2115 Pettigrew Street

II. Council Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes:

- September 2, 2021 Finance Council Meeting Minutes
- September 29, 2021 Special Council Meeting Minutes
- October 12, 2021 Special Council Meeting Minutes
- October 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to approve all meeting minutes in batch, passed unanimously.

B. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2021-17, An Ordinance to Amend Zoning Regulations Regarding Short-Term Auto Parking Lots, Zoning Ordinance Section §21-50 C. (4): Consideration of Text Changes to Short Term Auto Parking Lots as Special Exceptions within the CC (Community Commercial) District.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2021-17, An Ordinance to Amend Zoning Regulations Regarding Short-Term Auto Parking Lots, Zoning Ordinance Section §21-50 C. (4): Consideration of Text Changes to Short Term Auto Parking Lots as Special Exceptions within the CC (Community Commercial) District, passed unanimously.

C. Second Reading, 2021-18, An Ordinance to Adopt a Revised Business License Ordinance in accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176).

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak to approve Second Reading, 2021-18, An Ordinance to Adopt a Revised Business License Ordinance in accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176), passed unanimously.

D. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2021-20, An Ordinance to Amend the Ordinances of the Town of Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina, Chapter 14, By Amending Section 14-34 (SIC35) to Read as Follows: Section 14-34 (SIC35) The Lease of Certain Real Property to the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Inc., An Eleemosynary Corporation.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2021-20, An Ordinance to Amend the Ordinances of the Town of Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina, Chapter 14, By Amending Section 14-34 (SIC35) to Read as Follows: Section 14-34 (SIC35) The Lease of Certain Real Property to the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Inc., An Eleemosynary Corporation, passed unanimously.

E. Resolution - Approving Financing Terms for Vehicles and Equipment.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve Resolution for Financing Terms for Vehicles and Equipment, passed unanimously.

F. Approval of the August 19, 2021 Recreation Committee Minutes (Committee Members only).

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve the August 19, 2021 Recreation Committee Minutes (Committee Members only), passed unanimously.

G. Approval of the 2022 Dates for Council Meetings and Council Workshops.

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to approve the 2022 Dates for Council Meetings and Council Workshops, passed unanimously.

III. Reports and Communication

A. Mayor’s Report – Nothing to Report

B. Administrator’s Report

- In the absence of Town Administrator Benke, Mayor O’Neil presented new correspondence since 11/01/21 to Council, stating there 16 new emails had come in: 14 regarding pickle ball courts and 2 regarding the accredited land.
- The Fire Station construction project is on schedule

- A letter of interest/pre-application was submitted to FEMA in anticipation of applying for the Hazard Mitigation Grant 44925 COVID-19.
- Town Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday-Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26. Essential staff will be working.
- Dominion Energy is waiting for a response from Council regarding replacing current streetlights with LED lights. Council agrees to move forward with the caveat that the most turtle-friendly option is installed. Councilmember Visser would like more information about cost and specs of the project. Councilmember Millimet would like to have proposed timeline from Dominion.
- The annual Stith Park lighting will be Friday, December 3 at dusk, with fireworks following.
- The Police Department is helping with the Marine Corps Toys for Tots bicycle donation. The last day to donate new bikes is December 20th. The police has been building new bikes and currently have 40, with a goal of 250. The station is not accepting money, but people can drop off bikes or have one delivered to the station.
- Sea Island Builders is sponsoring a Holiday Food Drive and a drop off box will be at Town Hall for non-perishable food items.
- The Polar Bear swim will return for New Years Day 2022, and Station 22 ½ will reopen at 5:00 p.m.
- The Lovello Bike Ride for Hollings Cancer Center had a successful ride through Sullivan’s Island on November 6.
- Citibot will be giving a presentation on a citizen outreach platform at the December Regular Council Meeting.

C. Attorney’s Report – Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commission’s Reports

1. Planning Commission– Nothing to Report
2. Board of Zoning Appeals– Nothing to Report
3. Design Review Board– Nothing to Report
4. Tree Commission– Nothing to Report
5. Municipal Elections Commission– Nothing to Report
6. Park Foundation– Nothing to Report

IV. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Reminder to Council to follow up on suggestions for top three priorities for the engineering study. Please send to Bridget Welch to forward to Council.
- B. Public Facilities Committee
 1. Consideration of the following bids:
 - a. Bid received for the shallow well pump station houses on Jasper-quote from Ilderton Construction of \$32,000 to preserve the structures.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve bid received from Ilderton Construction for the work at the shallow well pump station houses on Jasper in the amount of 32,947.50, passed unanimously.

b. Bid received for SIES trail clean-up to enhance student safety

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to approve a bid for \$6,375 for trail clean-up work near the Battery Thompson path connecting the path to the Sullivan’s Island Elementary School bus loop, passed unanimously.

c. Bid received for landscape clean up at the two cemeteries

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve a bid for \$22,480 for cleaning up both cemeteries, passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of moving forward with expenditures for three historical markers or signs (Wayside Markers or Roadside Signs) with design and wording to be provided by Battery Gadsden Cultural Center: Battery Capron & Butler (the “mound”), the field at Station 17 & Middle, and the rear gate to the fort (near the cannons at Middle & Poe intersection)

Councilmember Novak stated an estimate has been give for \$2,000-\$6,000 per sign. He feels educating and recognizing these historical sites is important for celebrating and could possibly help keep the areas cleaner. They will start with three signs and can be done by local companies.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Novak to approve that we move forward with the three (3) historical markers as discussed, passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of a test installation of a post and bucket at a TBD beach path to support the “Fill A Bag” volunteer litter removal program

There are multiple contacts for litter pick-up initiatives that will be invited to share opinions and ideas at the next Council Workshop.

C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

1. The Public Facilities zoning matter was removed from the agenda to repost the agenda so the give the public a longer notification time. The matter will be up for consideration at the December Council meeting.
2. Recommendation for Town Council to establish a design and historical preservation study group and discuss membership

This group will be created by the LUNR committee and will review the current ordinances that deal with historical preservation and how they fit into the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. The group will be comprised of residents, which will be voting members, as well as non-voting members made up of observers and Town Staff. The goal is to have a knowledgeable

group operating on a short schedule to have the goals of the group accomplished. The group's members will be confirmed and published at a later date. More discussion will be had at the next Workshop and then voted on at the next Council meeting.

D. Administration Committee

1. The next Administration meeting will be on Tuesday, November 23rd at 8:30 a.m. to discuss public input at Council meetings.

E. Water & Sewer Committee

1. The Waste Water Treatment Plant is still in progress and is on track to be completed in the next 3-4 months
2. Screening of the WWTP

Residents have expressed concern about the sounds and disturbances from the Plant. Discussions about putting in a berm or other solutions have been had within the Committee and will be further discussed at the next Workshop meeting.

3. The next Water & Sewer meeting will be Thursday, November 18 at 8:45 a.m.

F. Public Safety Committee

1. The Polar Bear Swim will be held January 1, 2022
2. Mayor O'Neil reminded citizens to lock their cars and lock down any portlets.

G. Recreation Committee

1. A doodle will be sent out about the next meeting and advertised as normal. More discussion will be had about possible pickle ball court installation.
2. Chair Kaye Smith thanked Yardworks for their work on the Town Sign
3. Reminder the Station Lighting will be Friday, December 3rd

V. Executive Session

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

- A. Legal Advice – James Sheedy, Esq. to advise on contractual discussions heretofore with Charleston Water Service.
- B. Legal Advice – Lawrence Dodds, Esq. to advise on the matter of 2021-CP-10-04619 Ward et al vs. Town of Sullivan's Island et al.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to come out of Executive Session at 8:34 p.m., passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Neil stated that no votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith that the Town retain the services of Brady Hair to defend Chief Griffin in the matter of 2021-CP-10-04619 Ward et al vs. Town of Sullivan's Island et al, passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch